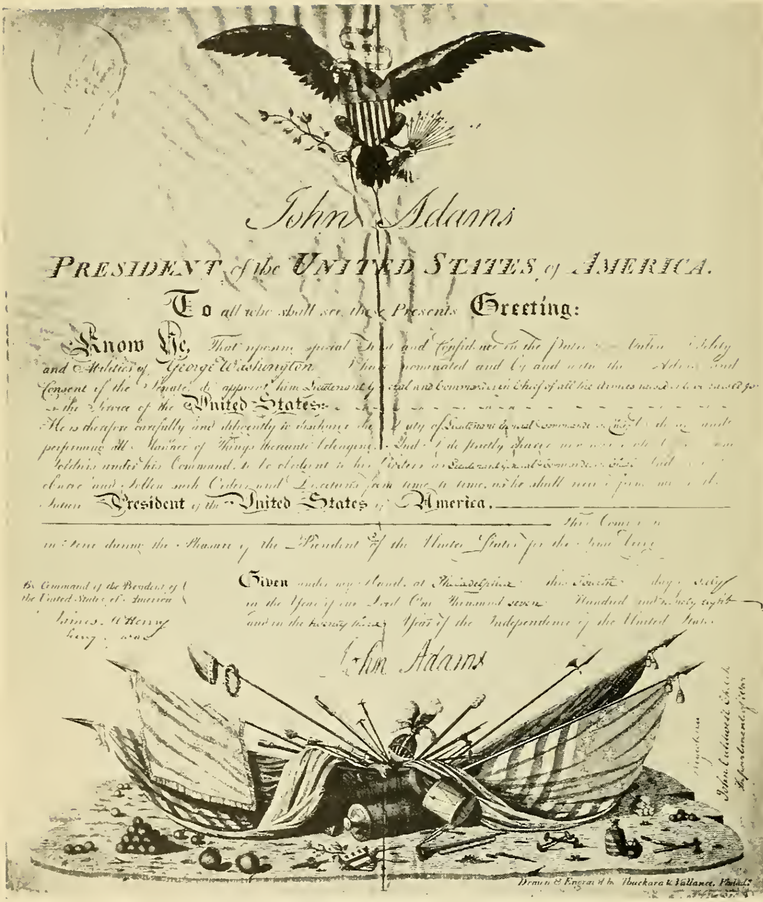
Library of the
College of Liberal Arts
Boston University

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Boston Library Consortium Member Libraries

http://www.archive.org/details/writingsofgeorge36wash



John Adams

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

To all who shall see these Presents Greeting:

Know Ye, That reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Patriotism, Valor, Fidelity and Abilities of George Washington, I have nominated and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, do appoint him Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of all the Armies raised or to be raised for the Service of the United States.

He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under his Command, to be obedient to his Orders as Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief. And he is to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from time to time, as he shall receive from me or the future President of the United States of America. This Commission to continue in force during the Pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

By Command of the President of the United States of America
James McHenry
Secy of War

Given under my Hand, at Philadelphia this Fourth day of July in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred and ninety eight and in the twenty third Year of the Independence of the United States.

John Adams

Drawn & Engrav'd by Thackara & Vallance, Philad.a

Washington's Commission as Lieutenant General, Signed by President John Adams, July 4, 1798

*THE WRITINGS OF*

# George Washington

from the

## Original Manuscript Sources

1745–1799

---

Prepared under the direction of the UNITED STATES
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
and published by authority of CONGRESS

---

JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, *Editor*

Volume 36

August 4, 1797–October 28, 1798

---

United States
Government Printing Office
Washington

General
July 6 1942

PRINTED
June, 1941

E
312.7
F31
V.36

# UNITED STATES GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

(The Commission expired December 31, 1934)

*President of the United States*
*Chairman*

*Vice President of the United States*
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

*United States Senate*

SIMEON D. FESS,* *Vice Chairman*
Ohio

ARTHUR CAPPER
Kansas

CARTER GLASS
Virginia

MILLARD E. TYDINGS
Maryland

*House of Representatives*

WILLIS C. HAWLEY
Oregon

JOHN Q. TILSON
Connecticut

JOSEPH W. BYRNS*
Tennessee

R. WALTON MOORE
Virginia

*Presidential Commissioners*

MRS. ANTHONY WAYNE COOK
Pennsylvania

MRS. JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN*
Colorado

HENRY FORD
Michigan

GEORGE EASTMAN*
New York

C. BASCOM SLEMP
Virginia

WALLACE MCCAMANT
Oregon

ALBERT BUSHNELL HART
Massachusetts

JOSEPH SCOTT
California

*Executive Committee*

THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMISSIONERS
C. BASCOM SLEMP
MRS. ANTHONY WAYNE COOK
JOSEPH SCOTT

*Historian*

PROF. ALBERT BUSHNELL HART

*Director*

REPRESENTATIVE SOL BLOOM

*Executive Secretary*
WILLIAM TYLER PAGE

*Deceased.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE
## ON THE WRITINGS

DR. J. FRANKLIN JAMESON, *Chairman**
Chair of American History and Chief of Manuscripts Division
Library of Congress

PROFESSOR RANDOLPH G. ADAMS
Librarian William L. Clements Library
University of Michigan

PRESIDENT J. A. C. CHANDLER*
William and Mary College

PRESIDENT TYLER DENNETT
Williams College

DR. CHARLES MOORE
Chairman United States Commission of Fine Arts

GEORGE W. OCHS-OAKES, ESQ.*
Editor New York Times

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN M. PALMER
United States Army, Retired

DR. VICTOR H. PALTSITS
Chief of American History Division
and Chief of Manuscripts Department
New York Public Library

---

*Deceased.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 1797


Page

To the Secretary of State, August 4 . . . . . 1

The opinion of the Attorney General on the recall of Monroe—Is unable to find it among his papers—Opinions of heads of departments missing.

To the Attorney General, August 4 . . . . . 2

Paper he wishes is missing from Washington's files.

To Lawrence Lewis, August 4 . . . . . 2

Runaway servant—Gradual abolition of slavery would prevent future mischief—Invitation to Mount Vernon—How he can help.

To Sir Edward Newenham, August 6 . . . . . 3

Delay in writing—Pressure of public duties—Derangement of private concerns—Agricultural amusements.

To Archibald McLean, August 7 . . . . . 5

A bond—James Kirk's account.

To Nathaniel Ramsey, August 11 . . . . . 5

Calf and sheep—Broadtail sheep from Mr. Gough.

To Henry Dorsey Gough, August 13 . . . . . 6

Broadtail sheep for breeding.

To Nathaniel Ramsey, August 13 . . . . . 6

John Anderson sent for calf and sheep—An advertisement.

To Reverend Zechariah Lewis, August 14 . . . . . 7

Thanks for sermons—Correspondence with Mr. Custis—His indolence.

To the Secretary of War, August 14 . . . . . 8

The affair of Senator Blount—Monroe has opened his battery—Table ornaments, coolers, and other articles—Porcupine's Gazette.

To Clement Biddle, August 14 . . . . . 9

Disposal of household furniture—Table ornaments and plated bottle coolers—A plateau—American edition of the encyclopædia.

To William Pearce, August 14 . . . . . 11

Engaging an overseer for Union and Dogue Run farms—Hessian fly—Loss caused by a wet season—Rye grass seed.

Page

To Reverend Newburgh Burroughs, August 20 . . . 12
The deceased Mrs. Savage's affairs.

To John Searson, August 20 . . . . . 14
His application for employment.

To Alexander Hamilton, August 21 . . . . . 15
Presents a wine cooler.

To Clement Biddle, August 21 . . . . . 15
Picture frames—Plated wine coolor—A stove and stovepipe—Congress' exemption of Washington from postage.

To Henry Dorsey Gough, August 23 . . . . . 16
Thanks for a bull calf—Livestock run down—Gough's sheep.

To Clement Biddle, August 23 . . . . . 17
Yellow fever in Philadelphia—The encyclopædia.

To the Secretary of State, August 29 . . . . . 18
Colonel Monroe did not call—A change of sentiment in France towards America—The tone will be lowered by degrees—Has never been alarmed by any fears of a war with France—Spoliations—The copying press.

To Thomas Macdonald, August 29 . . . . . 20
Thanks for an agriculture report—Invitation to Mount Vernon—Commissioners under the Jay Treaty.

To George Washington Parke Custis, August 29 . . 20
Stimulus to ambition—Approaching end of the term—Vacation and advice.

To Thaddeus Kosciuszko, August 31 . . . . . 22
Welcome to America—Invitation to Mount Vernon.

To the Secretary of State, August 31 . . . . . 23
Letter for Kosciuszko—Yellow fever in Philadelphia.

To Israel Shreve, September 1 . . . . . 23
Suit on his bond—Need of money and Shreve's delays in payments—The situation.

To James Harrison, September 2 . . . . . 25
Rent of an Alexandria lot.

To Lawrence Augustine Washington, September 3 . . 25
His marriage—Inability to be present.

To John O'Donnell, September 4 . . . . . 26
Asks for information as to Anthony Heusler as a gardener.

To Clement Biddle, September 6 . . . . . 27
Binding the encyclopædia.

Page

To Henry Lee, September 8 . . . . . 28
Receipt of a note for $1,000 and corn—Wheat price—Interest on debt—Washington's loss on bank stock through Reed & Ford—Lee's statements—Washington's finances on leaving Philadelphia—Columbia Bank stock.

To Tobias Lear, September 11 . . . . . 30
Reasons against leasing the River farm—Rental terms—The fishery.

To Clement Biddle, September 15 . . . . . 32
Picture frames—The stove—A quarter's interest—Insertion of an advertisement.

To George Pearson, September 15 . . . . . 33
The Colvill estate—Claimants.

To Anthony Heusler, September 18 . . . . . 34
His employment contingent upon that of a gardener from Scotland.

To William Triplett, September 24 . . . . . 35
Land purchase from Simon Pearson—Thomas Pearson's claim—Entail.

To Thomas Law, October 2 . . . . . 37
Sale of land to meet expenses—The project of a hotel in the capital city.

To Thomas C. Martin, October 3 . . . . . 37
Booker's threshing machine—Martin's machine.

To Alexander Hamilton, October 8 . . . . . 39
Desire of young Lafayette to meet his parents—His passage to France.

To Marquis de Lafayette, October 8 . . . . . 40
Return of his son—Congratulations upon his release—Washington's delicate situation—Conduct of young Lafayette—M. Frestal.

To Reverend Samuel Stanhope Smith, October 9 . . 42
Custis's conduct—Payment of his account.

To Bushrod Washington, October 9 . . . . . 43
Thomas Pearson's suit which interests him—Evidence of Grafton Kirk—Points to be examined.

To William Thornton, October 10 . . . . . 45
Thanks for a present—Square 21.

To Francis Walker, October 10 . . . . . 46
The Suffolk lands—Walker's offer to sell.

To Clement Biddle, October 15 . . . . . 47
Malady in Philadelphia—Stove procured in Alexandria.

Page

To Benjamin Goodhue, October 15 . . . . . 47
Thanks for fish—Money paid Captain Silver—Washington's wish for European peace—America.

To Reverend William Gordon, October 15 . . . . 48
Delay in writing—Repairs at Mount Vernon—Difficulties in keeping workmen to their tasks—Publication of the spurious letters—Has never sought a newspaper vindication—The Carey publication.

To Thaddeus Kosciuszko, October 15 . . . . . 51
Regret at his illness—Kosciuszko's claim.

To John Langhorne, October 15 . . . . . 52
Attacks on the administration—Has no personal feeling.

To the Secretary of War, October 16 . . . . . 53
His son's accident—Purchase of the arsenal site on the Potomac.

To Tobias Lear, October 24 . . . . . 54
Inability to lend him $3,000—Will let him have $1,000.

To ——— Barry, October 26 . . . . . 55
Sale of 50 barrels of flour.

To Robert Brooke, October 27 . . . . . 55
Mrs. Forbes to come at once.

To the Secretary of State, October 30 . . . . . 56
Forwarding letters—The copying press—Yellow fever.

To Bushrod Washington, October 30 . . . . . 57
Deed to Williams—Entail docking.

To Jacob Valentine, October 30 . . . . . 58
Inability to understand his letter—Soldiers' certificates.

To Alexander Spotswood, November 1 . . . . . 58
A housekeeper—A steward—Thompson's claim to the Kentucky lands.

To Daniel McCarty, November 3 . . . . . 59
Exchange of land—Value of the Kanawha tracts—McCarty's Maryland land.

To Robert Lewis, November 3 . . . . . 62
Orchard grass seed—Tenant on the Bath land.

To Bushrod Washington, November 3 . . . . . 62
Wants a housekeeper, and specifies requirements.

To Doctor James Anderson, November 4 . . . . 64
Arrival of William Spence—His skill as a gardener—Agricultural pursuits.

Page

To the Secretary of State, November 6 . . . . . 66
Mr. Parish—Bucknall's *Orchardist*.

To Sir John Sinclair, November 6 . . . . . .
Thanks for a publication—Fall in land values—Crops—Repairs at Mount Vernon.

To James Ross, November 6 . . . . . 68
Thanks for his attention to the Shreve matter—Payment of money—Laying off the Ohio lands into lots.

To Tobias Lear, November 10 . . . . . 69
Mr. Liston's visit.

To George Lewis, November 13 . . . . . 70
A runaway cook—Purchase or hire of another.

To Daniel McCarty, November 13 . . . . . 71
Disposal of his western lands—Laying off the tracts into lots—Obstacles to the bargain—Price—McCarty's sugarland tract—Exchange.

To Fitzgerald, Herbert, and Gilpin, November 22 . . 75
Rent of the Alexandria house to Colonel Marsteller.

To Bushrod Washington, November 22 . . . . . 75
Settling the Colvill estate matter—Mrs. Forbes.

To Philip Marsteller, November 22 . . . . . 77
A decision—Stonework of the stable.

To James Anderson, November 25 . . . . . 77
Rent of the Kanawha land—Will experiment with an 11,000-acre tract—Anderson's scheme.

To Clement Biddle, November 28 . . . . . 79
Authorizing the sale of his coach.

To Richard Parkinson, November 28 . . . . . 80
A postponement in renting his farms—Willingness to rent to English or Scotch farmers—Approves Parkinson's conduct.

To Sir John Sinclair, November 28 . . . . . 81
Mr. Parkinson's letter—Asks his ability as a farmer.

To John Nicholas, November 30 . . . . . 81
Mr. Langhorne's letter—Its purpose.

To James Welch, December 1 . . . . . 82
Leasing of the Kanawha lands—Terms.

To John Luzac, December 2 . . . . . 84
Thanks for a book—Luzac's regaining influence—His writings.

Page

To Bartholomew Dandridge, December 3 . . . . 85
His arrival in Holland—The family—Repairs—Errors and losses in Dandridge's accounts.

To Louis de La Colombe, December 3 . . . . . 86
Thanks for his information—Liberation of Lafayette—His son.

To William Vans Murray, December 3 . . . . . 87
Thanks for letters—Repairs at Mount Vernon—Liberation of Lafayette—Pinckney's colleagues and mission to France.

To Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, December 4 . . . 89
Their arrival in Europe—Reception of the embassy by France—Mr. Luzac's book—Mr. Izard—Young Lafayette.

To Felix Frestal, December 4 . . . . . 91
His letters—Regret at his departure—Personal mentions.

To John Marshall, December 4 . . . . . 92
Wishes success to his embassy—A change in the public mind—Inconsistency of American upholders of the French Directory—The summit of despotism—Severity of the winter and crops—Young Lafayette.

To George Washington Motier Lafayette, December 5. 95
Letters and friendship—Meeting with his parents—Personal mentions.

To Marquis de Lafayette, December 5 . . . . . 97
Congratulations on his release—Reports of his coming to America.

To Rufus King, December 6 . . . . . 98
Thanks for news of Lafayette—Young Lafayette's journey to Europe.

To James Welch, December 7 . . . . . 99
Fee simple of the Kanawha lands—Reasons against parting with it—Washington's price offer.

To James Keith, December 10 . . . . . 102
Bargain with James Welch for the Kanawha lands—Rent terms with purchase privilege—Keith to draw the lease.

To the Secretary of State, December 11 . . . . . 104
Forwarding letters—Young Lafayette's journey to Europe—Chance of missing his parents—Session of Congress.

To Richard Parkinson, December 15 . . . . . 106
Would be pleased to have skillful agriculturists take over Mount Vernon farms—Labor—Three farms may be rented.

To the Secretary of the Treasury, December 17 . . . 107
Mr. Barker's offer to pay in behalf of Colonel Shreve—Reception of our envoys at Paris—Condolence on the death of Wolcott's father.

Page

To the Secretary of the Treasury, December 17 . . . 108
Asks information about Col. Clement Biddle.

To Bushrod Washington, December 18 . . . . . 109
Arrival of Mrs. Forbes—Tax drafts from the sheriff of Kanawha County.

To James Anderson, December 21 . . . . . 110
The year's accounts—Separate items—Future renderings—His management approved—Improvements possible—Tardiness in execution—Want of arrangement—Day by day work—Arranging his papers—Union and Dogue Run farms under one head—Attention to tools, etc.

To Thomas Law, December 25 . . . . . 114
A pointer dog—Maryland's aid to the Potomac River—Return of letters.

1798

To John Mason, January 2 . . . . . 115
Potomac navigation matters—Washington's belief in the venture—Advantages to Virginia and Maryland.

To the Secretary of War, January 2 . . . . . 117
Introducing Mr. Elliot.

To George Washington Parke Custis, January 7 . . 117
System and daily conduct.

To Gustavus Scott, January 8 . . . . . 118
Maryland's loan to carry on the buildings in the Federal city—Meeting of the Potomac Company.

To Alexander Spotswood, January 9 . . . . . 119
Thanks for papers—Mr. Stephens's claim to land on Rough Creek.

To Alexander Spotswood, January 9 . . . . . 120
Necessity of acquiring Andrew Wodrow's tract—Asks Spotswood to purchase—Information wanted.

To Samuel Williams, January 10 . . . . . 121
Arrival of Lafayette at Hamburgh—Journey of his son to meet him.

To Burwell Bassett, January 10 . . . . . 122
A cook—Purchase of corn for the distillery.

To Clement Biddle, January 10 . . . . . 123
Mr. Kitt—Strings for Miss Custis's harpsichord.

To Frederick Kitt, January 10 . . . . . 123
A runaway cook—Recovery of him.

Page

To Alexander White, January 11 . . . . . 124
Necessity of completion of the public buildings in the Federal city—Meeting of the Potomac Company.

To Governor James Wood, January 12 . . . . . 125
Introducing Mr. Lear—Potomac Company business.

To the Secretary of State, January 12 . . . . . 126
Letter to Consul Williams—Asks for the Monroe and Fauchet pamphlets.

To Francis Deakins, January 15 . . . . . 126
Receipt of rent—Valuing of tobacco—Mr. Veatch.

To Bushrod Washington, January 19 . . . . . 128
Taxes of Kanawha and Greenbrier Counties—Justice of the bills—Investigation.

Lands Belonging to George Washington on the Western Waters in the State of Virginia, January . 130

To James Ross, January 22 . . . . . 132
Receipt of $1,961.30—Endorsement on Colonel Shreve's bond—Contract of sale of all Washington's land on the Great Kanawha and elsewhere—Terms—The buyer.

To David Stuart, January 22 . . . . . 135
George W. P. Custis's visit to Hope Park—His studies—A school for him—Cambridge and William and Mary.

To the Secretary of the Treasury, January 22 . . . . 137
Receipt of $1,961.30—Singular that no advices have been received from the envoys to Paris—Monroe's pamphlet—Calm in Congress—An unanswered question.

To Henry Lee, January 25 . . . . . 139
Lee's failure to pay on his bond—Washington's need of money—Will receive either corn or rye.

To Robert Lewis, January 26 . . . . . 140
His rents—Erection of a distillery and need of grain—Management of the rentals.

To Winthrop Sargent, January 27 . . . . . 141
Washington's land on the Little Miami—Title thereto.

To George Thacher, January 27 . . . . . 143
Mr. Goodwin's application.

To Rufus Putnam, January 28 . . . . . 143
Washington's title to land in Northwest Territory called into question—Ask for information.

Page

To the Secretary of War, January 28 . . . . . 144
His lands in the Northwest—Harmony in Congress—Silence of the envoys—Monroe's and Fauchet's pamphlets.

To Clement Biddle, January 29 . . . . . 145
Sale of the old coach—Sale of the plateau—Figure groups—Bill for the encyclopædia—Doctor Barton's debt—Oznabrigs—A clerk.

To Frederick Kitt, January 29 . . . . . 148
His inquiries after Herculas—Mr. Brown—Kitt's bank position.

To Bushrod Washington, January 30 . . . . . 149
His illness—Money for taxes—Recording of General Lee's deed.

To Albin Rawlins, January 31 . . . . . 150
Misconception of General Spotswood's application—A clerk—Terms.

Observations in Going Over Mr. Anderson's Accounts, February 1 . . . . . 151

To James Anderson, February 6 . . . . . 153
Notes on his accounts—His feeling—Hint of leaving—A clerk—The distillery—A cash account.

To the Secretary of State, February 6 . . . . . 155
Monroe's *View*—Mr. Nancrede's work—The *Aurora's* attack upon Pickering's honesty—Washington's relations with Talon—The publication of his letter to Morris and charges brought against him.

To Bushrod Washington, February 7 . . . . . 157
Taxes of land on the western waters.

To the Secretary of War, February 7 . . . . . 158
Thanks for letters—The old coach.

To Burwell Bassett, February 10 . . . . . 159
Corn and prices.

To Alexander Spotswood, February 11 . . . . . 159
Lands on Rough Creek and Green River—Return of papers—Price of land—A contemplated purchase—Cost of copying.

To Sally Ball Haynie, February 11 . . . . . 162
Sends £10—Advice.

To Robert Lewis, February 11 . . . . . 162
Execution of a deed—Walnut trees on his lands above Bath—Asks Lewis to investigate.

To James Ross, February 12 . . . . . 164
Receipt for bonds of Colonels Shreve and Ritchie—Opponents of the Government.

Page

To Albin Rawlins, February 12 . . . . . 164
His pay—Duties.

To Thomas Peter, February 16 . . . . . 166
A clerk from Hanover County—Mr. Davidson's nephew.

To John Fitzgerald, February 20 . . . . . 167
Mr. Sims's payment—Consents to delay.

To Alexander Martin, February 22 . . . . . 168
Dramatic poetry—Invitation to Mount Vernon.

To David Stuart, February 26 . . . . . 169
George W. P. Custis and the college at Annapolis—Alexandria—No progress if he stays at Mount Vernon.

To William Augustine Washington, February 27 . . 171
Death of his wife—Mr. Ashton's wish—Has engaged a clerk—Education of sons—His distillery business—Sir Isaac Heard's inquiries about the genealogy of the Washington family.

To Clement Biddle, February 27 . . . . . 174
German oznabrigs—Articles desired.

To Alexander White, March 1 . . . . . 175
The memorial to Congress—Distorted news—The attitude towards France—What is the prevalent opinion of Monroe's *View*.

To Samuel Davidson, March 2 . . . . . 176
Employment of his nephew—Superintendence of the distillery.

To Clement Biddle, March 3 . . . . . 177
Oznabrigs—Sale of the old coach—Binding of the encyclopædia—A blacksmith.

To John Parker, March 4 . . . . . 178
Subscription to his contemplated work.

To the Secretary of War, March 4 . . . . . 179
Enclosing the letter to John Parker to him.

To Francis Deakins, March 5 . . . . . 179
Mr. Veach's letter—Rents.

To John McDowell, March 5 . . . . . 180
Introducing Doctor Stuart—George W. P. Custis's entry into the college at Annapolis.

To George Richards Minot, March 5 . . . . . 181
Thanks for his history.

To Doctor B—— Fendall, March 6 . . . . . 182
Dental work for Mrs. Washington.

Page

To John Nicholas, March 8 . . . . . 182
Sincerity of Jefferson's friendship for him—Conduct of the party becoming systematized—The John Langhorne letter—Monroe's *View* and the propriety of publishing it—Consolation for Monroe.

To Bushrod Washington, March 8 . . . . . 184
General Lee's conveyance of land—Attempt of Nicholas to draw him into a correspondence—Who Nicholas is.

To James Keith . . . . . 186
Conveyance of Potomac Company stock.

To Doctor William Stoy, March 17 . . . . . 186
His charge for treating Christopher.

To George Washington Parke Custis, March 19 . . 187
His diligence in studies—Letters from him.

To Clement Biddle, March 19 . . . . . 188
Samples and prices of oznabrigs and ticklenburgs—Groceries, table ornaments, etc.—Mr. Savage's print.

To Alexander White, March 25 . . . . . 189
Proprietors of Washington its worst enemies—The loan from Congress will inspire confidence—Sites of the public buildings.

To the Secretary of War, March 27 . . . . . 191
Rumored treasonable correspondence between Members of Congress and the French Directory—Hopes these machinations will recoil on the heads of the plotters.

To Miles Smith, March 27 . . . . . 192
William Strickland's letter—Invitation to Smith to visit Mount Vernon.

To Thomas Marshall, March 30 . . . . . 192
Purchase of land adjoining the Rough Creek tract—Price.

To Alexander Spotswood, March 30 . . . . . 193
Purchase of land from Mr. Hite.

Remarks on Monroe's "View of the Conduct of the Executive of the United States," March . . . 194

To Alexander Smith, April 3 . . . . . 237
An order of plank and scantling.

To Governor John Henry, April 3 . . . . . 238
Plank wanted.

To Henry Hollingsworth, April 4 . . . . . 238
Thanks for a sample of home-manufactured cloth.

Page

To William Augustine Washington, April 5 . . . 239
The Washington genealogy—Relations with France—The corn market—Purchase of 500 barrels—Erosion of Mount Vernon lands.

To Edmond Lee, April 5 . . . . . 241
Hopes to see General Lee.

To Clement Biddle, April 8 . . . . . 241
Purchase of oznabrigs—His account—Replacement of his miller.

To Oliver Evans, April 8 . . . . . 242
Want of a miller.

To Hugh West, April 11 . . . . . 243
His application.

To Patrick O'Flynn, April 15 . . . . . 244
Obtaining a miller.

To George Washington Parke Custis, April 15 . . . 245
His studies—His announcement of Mr. Calvert's purpose—Personal mentions.

To James Lloyd, April 15 . . . . . 246
Thanks for news of our envoys to France.

To William Booker, April 15 . . . . . 247
Failure of the threshing machine.

To Ferdinand Fevot, April 15 . . . . . 247
No gentleman has been treated by him with incivility or even with indifference.

To the Secretary of State, April 16 . . . . . 248
Corruption and profligacy in system of the French Directory must open the eyes of the blindest—No changes to be expected in the leaders of opposition in the United States.

To Oliver Evans, April 22 . . . . . 249
Thanks for efforts to obtain a miller.

To George Deneale, April 22 . . . . . 249
Suit against Thomson Mason.

To Bushrod Washington, April 22 . . . . . 250
Deeds for land from and to General Lee—Recording.

To Alexander Smith, April 25 . . . . . 251
Plank.

To Edward Graham, April 25 . . . . . 251
Grants of land under Governor Dinwiddie—Washington's part therein.

Page

To William Booker, April 25 . . . . . 252
Rawhide band for the threshing machine.

To Thomas Pinckney, May 6 . . . . . 252
Letter for Mr. Horry.

To the Secretary of War, May 6 . . . . . 253
Cannon foundry at the mouth of the Shenandoah—Democrats seem to be lifting up their heads again.

To William Pearce, May 6 . . . . . 254
An account—Cradling wheat.

To Charles L. Pinckney Horry, May 6 . . . . . 255
His answer to Paine's letter.

To Thomas Law, May 7 . . . . . 256
His offer of a lot and a loan—His holdings in the Federal city—His estate is far from productive—Building at Mount Vernon.

To Foster & May, May 7 . . . . . 257
Their account—Payment.

To William Herbert, May 8 . . . . . 258
Notes for deposit.

To George Washington Parke Custis, May 10 . . . 258
His applications for money.

To William Strickland, May 15 . . . . . 259
His letter—Introduces Rev. Bryan Fairfax.

To Sir John Sinclair, May 15 . . . . . 260
Capture of a former letter—Introduces Rev. Bryan Fairfax.

To Sir John Sinclair, May 15 . . . . . 261
Introduces Rev. Bryan Fairfax.

To Thomas C. Martin, May 15 . . . . . 261
Threshing machine.

To Sarah Cary Fairfax, May 16 . . . . . 262
Changes in 25 years—Recollection of the moments spent in her company—Conduct of France—Regret in seeing Belvoir in ruins—Why she should return to America—The great future of the Federal city—Growth of Alexandria.

To Thomas Peter, May 18 . . . . . 256
A receipt—Mrs. Washington's letter—Visit to Hope Park.

To Reverend Bryan, Lord Fairfax, May 18 . . . . 266
Letter to Mrs. Fairfax—Visit.

Page

To James Anderson, May 22 . . . . . 266

His intention to withdraw from Mount Vernon—Has no desire to change, or to employ any one discontented with his conduct—Rights of a proprietor—Wishes to know the reason of his complaints—The mill and the distillery—Makes an offer.

To Alexander Hamilton, May 27 . . . . . 271

Is disturbed by the troubles with France—A proposed tour inexpedient—Does not think that France will come to open war—Would serve at the head of the Army, if called—Addresses from the people—The Government supported.

To Joseph Hopkinson, May 27 . . . . . 274

Thanks for a pamphlet and song—Difference of opinion among men—Liberty.

To Edward Carrington, May 28 . . . . . 275

Wishes to know the sentiments of the people.

To Clement Biddle, May 28 . . . . . 276

Power of attorney to sell United States stock for the benefit of the Potomac Company.

To Joseph Sands, May 29 . . . . . 276

A tin box shipment.

To William Fitzhugh, May 30 . . . . . 277

Mr. Anderson's tender of services to Fitzhugh—His ability.

Memorandum, May . . . . . 279

Concerning officers of the Provisional Army.

To Judge Alexander Addison, June 3 . . . . . 279

Disappointed in not receiving the installment on Colonel Ritchie's bond—Thanks for his remarks on Mr. Gallatin's speech and the oration on the President's general fast—They will do good.

To Reverend William Lynn, June 4 . . . . . 281

Thanks for his discourse.

To Judith Sargent Stevens Murray, June 4 . . . . . 281

Thanks for books.

To Robert Lewis, June 4 . . . . . 282

Mr. Ariss's draft—An eloped tenant—Compliance with the leases—Wheat and other grain.

To James Anderson, June 11 . . . . . 283

No objection to a mill and distillery arrangement—Exchange of horses—An allowance—Mr. Rawlins—No intention of hurting his feelings—Anderson's qualifications—Lack of system—Failures—Delivery of hay and grain—Hedges—Duties.

Page

To George Washington Parke Custis, June 13 . . . 288
His failure to write—His attentions to a young lady in Alexandria.

To James Lloyd, June 13 . . . . . 288
Thanks for his information—What are the sentiments of the people of Kentucky?

To John McDowell, June 13 . . . . . 289
Young Custis.

To Oliver Evans, June 14 . . . . . 289
Want of a miller.

To Reverend Jeremy Belknap, June 15 . . . . . 290
His discourse on the Fast Day—His American biography—The Calverts—Richard Bland and the history of Virginia.

To the President of the United States, June 17 . . . 291
His contemplated visit to the Federal city—Wishes him to make Mount Vernon his headquarters—Good wishes for his administration.

To Justice Samuel Chase, June 17 . . . . . 292
Reverend Mr. Belknap's inquiries as to the Calvert family.

To the Trustees of Washington Academy, June 17 . . 293
Reply to their address.

To Edward Savage, June 17 . . . . . 293
Thanks for choosing the prints sent by Colonel Biddle.

To Alexander Smith, June 17 . . . . . 294
Payment for plank.

To Clement Biddle, June 17 . . . . . 294
The old coach and table ornaments—Picture frames.

To Francis Corbin, June 17 . . . . . 295
Reverend Mr. Belknap—Historical notes of Corbin's father.

To William Fitzhugh, June 17 . . . . . 296
Reverend Mr. Belknap's biographies—Subscription list.

To Thomas C. Martin, June 17 . . . . . 296
Scantling for a threshing machine.

To Julius Ursyn Niemcewicz, June 18 . . . . . 297
His visit to Mount Vernon.

To the Secretary of War, June 22 . . . . . 298
Answers to his letters.

To James Lloyd, June 25 . . . . . 298
Marshall's return from France—Mysterious conduct of one of his colleagues—Flimsy performances of the French ministers.

Page

To Tobias Lear, June 25 . . . . . 299
His Alexandria rents.

To Tobias Lear, June 26 . . . . . 300
Confidence in his accounts—Use of his money—Embarrassments are great.

To William Augustine Washington, June 26 . . . 301
His letter delayed—Corn price—500 barrels annually.

To James Lloyd, June 27 . . . . . 303
The full correspondence with the French ministry must carry conviction to every mind.

To the Secretary of War, June 30 . . . . . 303
Uniform stars—Box of figures.

To the Secretary of War, July 4 . . . . . 304
His question—Unwillingness to leave his retirement—Principle actuating his life—Three questions necessary to be answered—Observations on each—Cannot believe France will invade America—Public opinion on his assumption of command again—Selection of officers for the Army—The General Staff—Inspector General, Quartermaster General, and others—Conditions under which he will take command—The President's letter.

To the President of the United States, July 4 . . . . 312
Retirement—Will come forward in case of an actual invasion—French have been led to believe we are a divided people—The choice of general officers—The greatest circumspection should be used in appointing the General Staff.

To Ferdinando Fairfax, July 4 . . . . . 316
His dedication.

To Tobias Lear, July 4 . . . . . 316
Scow—Loan of $1,000—State of his papers—The annuity to the Alexandria Academy.

To Archibald McClean, July 4 . . . . . 317
Exchange of the tract below Wheeling for improved property in Alexandria—Value.

To the Secretary of War, July 5 . . . . . 318
His letter may be shown to the President—The choice of general officers all important—Reasons for a delay in appointment of the General Staff—Recommendation of Doctor Craik.

To Henry Philips, July 8 . . . . . 320
Thanks for pictures.

To Thomas Peter, July 8 . . . . . 321
Tobacco notes.

Page

To Sir John Sinclair, July 10 . . . . . 321
Thanks for surveys—History of early wheat in America—The Egyptian wheat a failure.

To the Secretary of State, July 11 . . . . . 323
Hamilton's fitness for command—The President's attitude—Expectation of the invasion of the south by the French—General Pinckney should be considered—Washington's letter to the President.

To Reverend Jeremy Belknap, July 12 . . . . . 327
Subscriptions to his American biography.

To the President of the United States, July 13 . . . 327
His appointment as Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief—Conduct of France—The wise and prudent measures of his administration—Has determined to accept the appointment—Conditions and a reservation.

To Alexander Hamilton, July 14 . . . . . 329
Reservations with which he has accepted the command of the Army—Relies upon his cooperation—Action of Congress—Suggested appointments—Pinckney and Hamilton.

Proposed Arrangement of General and Other Officers, July 14 . . . . . 333

Answers to Queries of the Secretary of War, July 14 . . 335

To Thomas Peter, July 15 . . . . . 336
Sale of tobacco.

To Archibald McClean, July 15 . . . . . 336
Exchange of properties—Fixing the valuations—Land on the Ohio.

To Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, July 15 . . . . . 337
Receipt of tobacco notes—Thanks for his trouble—Rent of Dunnington's land.

To Alexander Spotswood, July 15 . . . . . 338
Purchase of land by Mr. Short—Rough Creek land.

To Edward Carrington, July 15 . . . . . 339
Washington's appointment—Has named Carrington as Quartermaster General.

To William Hickman, July 15 . . . . . 341
Mr. Frignet.

To John Marshall, July 15 . . . . . 341
His return to America.

To Henry Hill, July 15 . . . . . 342
Has again consented to enter the service of his country—Conduct of the French Directory.

Page

To Rawleigh Colston, July 16 . . . . . 343
Col. George Mercer's land—Matter taken in charge by the chancery court—Willingness to certify on the old deed.

To Henry Knox, July 16 . . . . . 345
Will command the Army—Relies upon his support—The question of major generals—Hamilton is designated second in command—Pinckney has the highest claims in the South—Former rank should be forgotten in the new army—Sends the arrangement made with the Secretary of War.

To James Marshall, July 16 . . . . . 348
His offer to act as aide—Does not believe the French will invade America.

To Peyton Short, July 16 . . . . . 350
Taxes on the Rough Creek lands.

To William Heth, July 18 . . . . . 351
His offer to act as aide—Conduct of the French.

To Oliver Evans, July 20 . . . . . 352
Has engaged his present miller.

To Julia Sargent Stevens Murray, July 20 . . . . . 353
Acknowledging her letter.

To Alice Delancey Izard, July 20 . . . . . 353
Mr. Izard's health—His appointment.

To John Tayloe, July 21 . . . . . 355
Pleased at his offer of services.

To the Secretary of War, July 22 . . . . . 356
Suggestions on the list of nominations—Carrington's fitness for the office of Quartermaster General—Sevier—Application of John Tayloe—Tallmadge and Ragsdale—Other applicants—Edward Rutledge fit to command the artillery.

To William Temple Broome, July 24 . . . . . 361
His application.

To Thomas Cadwalader, July 24 . . . . . 361
His application.

To Francis Corbin, July 24 . . . . . 362
His application.

To George Washington Parke Custis, July 24 . . . 363
Astonished at his question—His education.

To Doctor James Anderson, July 25 . . . . . 364
His literary work—Is again in public life—The reasons—Indignation against France—His gardener satisfactory.

Page

To the Secretary of War, July 25 . . . . . 366
Charles Fenton Mercer's application.

To Charles Fenton Mercer, July 25 . . . . . 366
Has sent his application to the Secretary of War.

To John Trumbull, July 25 . . . . . 367
Prints of the American Revolution—New scenes are opening—Has consented to become an actor in the great drama.

To the Secretary of War, July 27 . . . . . 368
The Grayheads—Presentation of colors by Mrs. Washington.

To William Hambly, July 28 . . . . . 369
Sends hams.

To Anthony MacHarg, July 28 . . . . . 369
His ability as a cavalry instructor—Refers him to the Secretary of War.

To the Secretary of War, July 28 . . . . . 370
Transmits applications for appointment.

To Judge Alexander Addison, July 29 . . . . . 370
Acknowledging a payment on Col. Matthew Ritchie's bond—Money disappointments—James Reed's claim—Papers in the case.

To James Ashe, July 29 . . . . . 372
His application.

To Clement Biddle, July 29 . . . . . 373
Pictures from Mr. Savage—The encyclopædia—The old coach and table ornaments.

To the Secretary of War, July 29 . . . . . 373
Overwhelmed with applications, introductions, and recommendations—Would not a secretary be allowable?—Wishes to remain free from all engagements as to aides—Qualifications required for them—Quartermaster and adjutant generals—What progress has been made?

To the Secretary of War, July 30 . . . . . 375
Mr. MacHarg's application.

To John McDowell, July 30 . . . . . 376
Payment for Custis's tuition.

To James Shephard, July 30 . . . . . 376
Referring his project to the Secretary of the Navy.

To Richard Clough Anderson, July 30 . . . . . 377
Reports of Washington losing his land on the Little Miami—His title.

Page

To the Secretary of War, July 31 . . . . . 378
Major Parker's ability.

To the Secretary of War, August 1 . . . . . 379
Captain Pearcy and Mr. Bent—James Shephard's letter.

To the Secretary of War, August 2 . . . . . 380
Uniform of the Grey heads—Supply of stationery.

To Tobias Lear, August 2 . . . . . 380
Lear's health—Presidency of the Potomac Company—Efforts to arrange his papers—Will Lear act as secretary to Washington—Fixing Lear's boys at school.

To Jonathan R. Wilmer, August 2 . . . . . 382
His offer to act as an aide.

To Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, August 2 . . . . 382
Young Mr. Carroll's offer to act as aide—Considerations governing the selection of aides—Hopes that war will not come.

To Thomas Nelson, August 2 . . . . . 384
His offer to serve as aide.

To the Secretary of War, August 4 . . . . . 385
Doctor Brown, of Port Tobacco.

To the Secretary of State, August 4 . . . . . 385
Money paid him by Judge Addison.

To the Postmaster of Alexandria, August 4 . . . . 386
Inefficiency.

To Josiah Dunham, August 4 . . . . . 386
Thanks for his oration.

To Edward Carrington, August 5 . . . . . 387
His acceptance of the office of Quartermaster General.

To William Heth, August 5 . . . . . 388
Qualifications of aides—Choice of them—Principles of the dispute with France.

To William Fitzhugh, August 5 . . . . . 390
Need of a riding horse—Description.

Memorandum August 6 . . . . . 391
Given to McClean.

To Archibald McClean, August 6 . . . . . 392
Potomac Company meeting at Gadsby's—Sends patent for 587 acres—Lease terms.

Page

To Major General Alexander Hamilton, August 9 . . 393

Knox's letter—Pinckney still has the preference—McHenry's unfitness for his responsibilities—Is kept in profound ignorance of what is being done—Hopes to bring Hamilton in contact with the Secretary—Delicacy must yield to expediency—Harper and aides—No foreigner will be a member of his family.

To Henry Knox, August 9 . . . . . 396

His letter has given disquietude and perplexity in the extreme—Misconceptions—How Washington received intelligence of his appointment—Could not have consulted him before nominating general officers—Hamilton's claims—The Major Generals—The new army—Why Lee commanded in 1794—There has been no "management" in the business to his knowledge—His friendship unchanged—No room for dissensions—Danger of local distinctions and little jealousies—Geographical distribution of appointments.

To Lewis Murarius, August 9 . . . . . 401

His offer to serve as an aide.

To the Secretary of War, August 10 . . . . . 402

An outspoken letter of advice—His solicitude relative to the formation of the Army—Is left in ignorance of appointments—His questions unanswered—His great interest at stake—Suggests calling the Inspector General into service—Easier to prevent than to rectify mistakes—Desires information on certain matters.

To the Secretary of War, August 10 . . . . . 404

Mr. Bent, Mr. Carter, and Mr. Lewis.

To William Vans Murray, August 10 . . . . . 405

His letters may have fallen into other hands—Little of interest in his retirement—Turpitude of the French nation—Called into service again—Spirit aroused of the people.

To Thomas Peter, August 12 . . . . . 407

Tobacco.

To Bushrod Washington, August 12 . . . . . 408

Mr. Nicholas's letter—Identity of John Langhorne.

To the Secretary of War, August 13 . . . . . 410

Pleasure at agreement of their sentiments—Major Tallmadge's expectations—Tin box addressed to Washington.

To Clement Biddle, August 13 . . . . . 411

Doctor Barton's note.

To the Secretary of War, August 13 . . . . . 411

Organizing and recruiting the 12 infantry regiments—Aid of the Inspector General and General Knox.

To David Stuart, August 13 . . . . . 412

Washington Custis's morbidity.

Page

To Reverend Jonathan Boucher, August 15 . . . . 413
Has received his volume on the Revolution—Wishes for peace and a good understanding between the two countries—Threatening attitude of France.

To Henry Gird, Junior, August 19 . . . . . 414
Sale of his Ohio land.

To Jacob Read, August 19 . . . . . 415
Supposed injury done George Izard—Military principles.

To Robert Morris, August 19 . . . . . 417
Purport of his letter will be communicated to Secretary of War—Yellow fever in Philadelphia.

To the Secretary of War, August 20 . . . . . 418
Mr. Hoops—Device for the colors ordered by Mrs. Washington.

To John Gassaway, August 20 . . . . . 419
His offer to serve as aide.

To Bushrod Washington, August 27 . . . . . 419
His illness—General Marshall's visit—The elections—His fictitious correspondent, John Langhorne.

To John McDowell, September 2 . . . . . 421
Illness—Course of studies for Custis—His indolence an obstacle—To be admonished.

To the Secretary of War, September 3 . . . . . 423
An attack of sickness—Difficulty of obtaining information of characters in the South—Distribution of regiments—General officers—Cavalry officers—Furnishing magazines—Regulations for the recruiting service—Rank of the major generals.

To James Athill, September 4 . . . . . 426
Thanks for sheep and exotic plants—Sends a ram and five ewes.

To Thomas Peter, September 4 . . . . . 427
Shipment of tobacco.

To Arthur Campbell, September 8 . . . . . 428
Pleased at the feeling of the militia officers of Washington County—Thanks for his suggestions.

To the Inhabitants of Greene County, in the State of Tennessee, September 8 . . . . . 429
Answer to their address.

To the Secretary of State, September 9 . . . . . 430
Thanks for confidential information—Discontent of General Knox—Correspondence with him—Knox's view of the matter—The President—Appointment of White and Sevier—Adjutant General—Aides-de-camp.

Page

To Clement Biddle, September 10 . . . . . 434
Fever in Philadelphia—Letter to the Board of Managers.

To William Jones and Board of Managers of the Marine and City Hospitals, September 10 . . . . 435
Contribution to the suffering and unfortunate poor of Philadelphia.

To David Stuart, September 10 . . . . . 435
Mr. Anderson's wants—Personal mentions.

To Alexander White, September 12 . . . . . 436
Purchase of Lot 16 in Square 634—Queries respecting Lot 2 in Square 731—Building thereon—Plan.

To Daniel McCarty, September 13 . . . . . 439
Sale of his Kanawha lands—Terms—Ohio lands—McCarty's removal to the western country.

To the Secretary of War, September 14 . . . . . 441
Delay in recruiting plans—Its evil effects—Reasons for a fuller correspondence—Is left in ignorance of what is being done—The major generals—White's nomination—His reputation against it—Sevier—Small arms and artillery.

To Alexander Spotswood, September 14 . . . . . 443
Illness—Overseer—Rawlins and his testimonials—The question of wages—Richard Rhodes—Brookes, the carpenter—Names of officers of the Revolution.

To the Secretary of War, September 16 . . . . . 447
His disquietude and embarrassment—Wishes a copy of McHenry's letter to the President—May be obliged to refresh his memory on Washington's compact—Memorial of the secretaries.

To John McDowell, September 16 . . . . . 449
Mr. Custis will not return to college.

To John Francis, September 16 . . . . . 449
Building two houses in the capital city—Plan of them.

To Alexander Spotswood, September 24 . . . . . 450
Employment of Garrett as an overseer—Roger Farril and Brookes, the joiner—Thanks him for the characters of the revolutionary officers—Spotswood's plan—Letter to Garrett.

To Major General Alexander Hamilton, September 24 . 452
Rank of the major generals.

To Reverend G. W. Snyder, September 25 . . . . 452
Acknowledging a volume—The Illuminati—Does not preside over any Masonic lodge.

Page

To the President of the United States, September 25 . 453

Representation presented for consideration—Change Adams has made in the rank of the major generals—Appointment of an adjutant general—Was not consulted before his appointment—Could declare his views only after his nomination—Reasons for making stipulations as to the general officers and General Staff—Care taken to express the stipulations—How they have been disregarded by the President—The order of the major generals—Other appointments of questionable characters—His sole aim to obtain able coadjutors—The character of the war will differ materially from the last—Why was the order not altered before being submitted to the Senate?—Resolves of the Continental Congress as to rank not germane—Why they cannot control—Fitness of Hamilton—Knox's claims—General Pinckney—Spirit and enthusiasm of the people evaporating—Consequences of the delay—Wishes to be informed of his final determination.

To the Secretary of War, September 26 . . . . . 463

Delay of his letter—Letter to the President.

To the Secretary of the Navy, September 26 . . . . 464

Creation of a navy—Advantages of the Potomac River for building ships—Security against attack—Location of a navy yard.

To Brigadier General William Washington, September 27 . . . . . 468

His appointment—Twelve regiments—Proper officers—Wishes names.

To William Russell, September 28 . . . . . 469

Ewes for his ram—Wheat and flour sent.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, September 28 . . . . . 470

Checks in payment of the lot bought of Mr. D. Carroll—Estimate of his building costs—Other lots purchased.

To Reverend Zechariah Lewis, September 28 . . . . 472

His illness—Now sends the information.

To Major General Henry Lee, September 29 . . . . 472

Alternative payments—Property to be pointed out—Corn—Wishes to see him.

To the Secretary of War, September 30 . . . . . 474

Brawlers against the measures of government have become suddenly silent—Are desirous of obtaining commissions in the Army—Can as soon scrub a blackamoor white as change a professed Democrat—Is sufficiently important to inform McHenry thereof.

To the Secretary of State, October 1 . . . . . 475

Mr. Wolcott's representation to the President and Washington's letter will soon bring matters to a close.

Page

To James Ross, October 1 . . . . . 475
Colonel Shreve's delinquency in payments.

To the Secretary of War, October 1 . . . . . 476
Can Washington, with propriety, retain his commission in the face of the President's conduct?—Desires to know the opinion of the Cabinet—Reported disgust of New England with Hamilton—Is Pickering hostile to Knox?—Would like a copy of Wolcott's letter to the President—Burn this.

To the Secretary of War, October 1 . . . . . 477
Thanks for his confidential letter—Evils consequent of the President's delay—Replenishing magazines at the expense of the recruiting service—Waste caused by militia—Choice between the two—Musket and bayonet—Clothing—Precarious ground on which Washington stands—Proper characters for officers in the Carolinas, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

To the President and Directors of the Bank of Pennsylvania, October 1 . . . . . 480
To deliver the judgment bond of Col. Israel Shreve to the Hon. James Ross.

To Israel Shreve, October 1 . . . . . 480
His bond to be put in suit.

To William Augustine Washington, October 3 . . . 481
Corn contract—Thanks for old documents relating to the family pedigree.

To William Herbert, October 4 . . . . . 482
A loan from the bank.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, October 4 . . . . . 483
Cost of his houses in the capital exceeds his expectations.

To Landon Carter, October 5 . . . . . 484
Letters for him—His health.

To William Augustine Washington, October 5 . . . 484
General Lee's ways—Building houses in the Federal city.

To Andrew Elliot Belknap, October 8 . . . . . 485
Subscriptions—The American biography.

To William Herbert, October 8 . . . . . 486
The loan from the bank.

To Samuel Hodgdon, October 8 . . . . . 486
Receipt of writing paper.

Page

To the Secretary of the Navy, October 9 . . . . . 486
Introducing Capt. John Spotswood.

Memorandum of Land Exchange, October 11 . . . 487
With James Welch.

To Reverend Samuel Knox, October 14 . . . . . 487
Declines his dedication.

To the Secretary of War, October 15 . . . . . 488
Unwilling to hazard a recommendation for the command of the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers—Edward Rutledge and Major Rivardi—Regimental officers—Generals Pinckney, Washington, and Davie would make careful selections—State quotas of troops—Character of officers—Col. William Smith.

Quota of Troops from the Southern States, October 15 . 491

To the Secretary of State, October 15 . . . . . 493
Desires information other than that contained in the newspapers—The embargo imposed by France—Gerry's panic and needed explanation of his conduct—Decline of Federalist influence in Maryland.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, October 17 . . . . . 495
Mr. Blagden's statement—His proposal.

To Major General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, October 18 . . . . . 496
His arrival in America.

To the Secretary of State, October 18 . . . . . 496
Arrival of General Pinckney—Prospects of an actual invasion from France—Duplicity of Talleyrand—Propriety of Gerry's conduct—Rumored intention of the Lafayettes to visit America—Impropriety of the Prince Edward address—Object of the leaders.

To William Thornton, October 18 . . . . . 498
Mr. Blagden's contract—Scantling and plank—Foundations.

To the Committee of the South Carolina Society of the Cincinnati, October 20 . . . . . 499
Alteration of the ribbon of the society.

To Major General Alexander Hamilton, October 21 . 500
The President has signed the commissions in the order of Hamilton, Pinckney, Knox—Asks him to assist the Secretary of War without delay.

To the President of the United States, October 21 . . 501
Mrs. Adams's health—Mr. North's appointment to the adjutant generalcy.

Page

To Rawleigh Colston, October 21 . . . . . 501
Taxes of his Kentucky lands.

To the Secretary of War, October 21 . . . . . 502
Correspondence—The President's suspicions of intrigue—McHenry's letter to the President—List of captains and subalterns—Answer to Wolcott's letter.

To the Secretary of War, October 21 . . . . . 503
The question of rank and Knox—Officers to the southward—Applications from the west—Applications through Members of Congress—The meeting of the major generals and Washington.

To Henry Knox, October 21 . . . . . 506
Washington's illness—Question of precedence—How the nominations were made and agreed to—Incidental rank—Command of separate corps in the last war—Wishes his cooperation—If Knox declines the major generalcy, would be glad to have him act as aide.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, October 22 . . . . . 508
Cost of Blagden's work—Will agree to his terms—The contract—Payments.

To Thomas Marshall, Junior, October 22 . . . . . 510
Payment of taxes on Kentucky lands.

To Edward Carrington, October 22 . . . . . 511
Delay in appointment of officers—Requests Carrington, General Marshall, and Colonel Heth to name and rank officers in the States south of Maryland, including Kentucky and Tennessee—Lists sent them—General considerations.

To Henry Knox, October 23 . . . . . 513
Society of the Cincinnati matter—Meeting of the major generals.

To the Secretary of War, October 23 . . . . . 514
General Pinckney's acceptance—Meeting of the major generals.

To Brigadier General William Richardson Davie, October 24 . . . . . 515
Delay in appointing officers—Selection of officers for the North Carolina regiment—Sends list of revolutionary officers—Principles of selection.

To the Officers of the Tenth and Ninety-first Regiments of the Virginia Militia, October 24 . . . . 517
Answer to their address.

To Thomas Law, October 24 . . . . . 518
Sends check for his subscription to the loan to Tunnicliff for erecting an hotel.

Page

To Reverend G. W. Snyder, October 24 . . . . . 518
Spread of doctrines of the Illuminati—Not connected with freemasonry.

To the Secretary of State, October 26 . . . . . 519
Welcome acceptance by General Pinckney—Correspondence between the Department of State and the State governors—Gerry's inexcusable secret negotiations—His vanity may prevent an explanation.

To the Secretary of War, October 26 . . . . . 520
Pleasure in General Pinckney's declaration.

To Richard Bland Lee, October 27 . . . . . 521
His application.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, October 27 . . . . . 521
Agreement with Blagden.

To William Thornton, October 28 . . . . . 522
General Lee's property in the city—Use of Washington's end wall—A well—Payments to Blagden—Building details.

River Front Wall, October . . . . . 524
At Mount Vernon.

# TABLE OF SYMBOLS

The following symbols have been used to denote the place of deposit of Washington letters not found in draft or letter-book form in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress:

| | |
|---|---|
| Indicating that the letter is in Washington's own handwriting | * |
| Chicago Historical Society | [CH.H.S.] |
| Clements Library, University of Michigan | [C.L.] |
| Connecticut Historical Society | [C.H.S.] |
| Harvard College Library | [HV.L.] |
| Haverford College | [HD.C.] |
| Historical Society of Pennsylvania | [H.S.P.] |
| Huntington Library | [H.L.] |
| John Carter Brown Library, Rhode Island | [J.C.B.] |
| Maine Historical Society | [M.H.S.] |
| Maryland Historical Society | [MD.H.S.] |
| Massachusetts Historical Society | [MS.H.S.] |
| J. P. Morgan Library | [M.L.] |
| New Hampshire Historical Society | [N.H.H.S.] |
| New York Historical Society | [N.Y.H.S.] |
| New York Public Library | [N.Y.P.L.] |
| New York State Library | [N.Y.S.L.] |
| Rhode Island Historical Society | [R.I.H.S.] |
| Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati | [R.I.S.C.] |
| Society of the Cincinnati | [S.C.] |
| University of Chicago Library | [U.C.L.] |
| University of Pennsylvania Library | [U.P.] |
| Virginia Historical Society | [V.H.S.] |
| Virginia State Library | [V.S.L.] |

# THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

# THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1797.

Dear Sir: In a late letter from the Attorney General (Lee) he has requested a copy of the opinion he gave relative to the recall of Mr. Monroe.

Among the Packages most likely (as I conceived) to produce it, I have searched for the original in vain; nor among these do I find the opinions of the Heads of Departments on various other subjects. How to account for this I am unable, unless the bundle containing them, which I once put into your hds. for a particular purpose was never returned, or left by Mr. Lear and Mr. Dandridge (who were employed in seperating and packing up my Papers) put them by mistake among the files which were intended for my Successor in Office.

I have not yet opened all my packages of Papers, nor can I do it until I have provided some place in which they can be deposited with safety; but I pray you to let me know whether the bundle I have alluded to was returned, or not, by you. Your answer may save a further search and some anxiety.[1] With very great esteem &c.

[1]Pickering's answer (August 10) stated that he had two bundles of the above-mentioned papers; that he would let the Attorney General take a copy of his opinion and then send the papers to Washington. Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

## *To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1797.

Dear Sir: Agreeably to my promise I have looked among those parcels which I conceived most likely to procure the Paper of which you required a copy, without the desired effect. How to account for it I am at a loss unless Mr. Lear and Mr. Dandridge (whom I employed to seperate and Pack up my files) may have left it, with Papers of a similar nature, which I also miss, with those designed for my Successor in Office.

I have not, nor is it in my power yet, to open all my packages; because I have no place to put them at this moment in a seperate State. When I do this, if I find the opinion you have given, in a certain case, among them a copy of it shall be transmitted to you. With great esteem etc.

## To LAWRENCE LEWIS

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 24th ulto has been received, and I am sorry to hear of the loss of your servant; but it is my opinion these elopements will be MUCH MORE, before they are LESS frequent: and that the persons making them should never be retained, if they are recovered, as they are sure to contaminate and discontent others. I wish from my soul that the Legislature of this State could see the policy of a gradual Abolition of Slavery; It would prevt. much future mischief.

Whenever it is convenient to you to make this place your home I shall be glad to see you at it for that purpose and that there may be no misunderstanding in the matter, I shall inform you beforehand, that you, servant (if you bring one) and horses, will fare in all respects as we and mine do, but that I

shall expect no Services from you for which pecuniary compensation will be made. I have already as many on wages as are sufficient to carry on my business, and more indeed than I can find means to pay, conveniently. As both your aunt and I are in the decline of life, and regular in our habits, especially in our hours of rising and going to bed, I require some person (fit and Proper) to ease me of the trouble of entertaining company; particularly of nights, as it is my inclination to retire (and unless prevented by very particular company, always do retire) either to bed, or to my study, soon after candle-light. In taking these duties (which hospitality obliges one to bestow on company) off my hands, it would render me a very acceptable service, and for a little time only, to come, an hour in the day, now and then, devoted to the recording of some Papers which time would not allow me to complete before I left Philadelphia, would also be acceptable. Besides there is nothing at present, that would require any portion of your time, or attention; both of which, if you have inclination for it, might be devoted to Reading, as I have a great many instructive Books, on many subjects, as well as amusing ones, &c. &c &c

Your Aunt unites with me in best regards for you, and I am your sincere friend and Affectionate Uncle.[2]

## *To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM

Mount Vernon, August 6, 1797.

Dear Sir: I am so much your debtor in the epistolary way, that it would upbraid me too severely was I to go into a particular acknowledgment of the receipt of all the letters with which you have honoured me in the course of the last two or three years: and avoiding this accustomed mode, I scarcely

[2]From the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1890.

know how to begin my letter to you, or what apology to make for so long a silence.

As honesty however (in every transaction of life) is in my estimation, the best policy, I shall frankly declare to you, that soon after I entered upon the duties of my late station, I found that the multiplicity thereof allowed no leisure for the indulgence of private correspondencies; and having made it an invariable rule through life, to discharge every trust I engaged in, in behalf of the public, to the utmost of my judgment and abilities, I did not hesitate long in determining to relinquish the latter. I supposed, too, that when I should quit the arduous duties attached to the Presidency of this Country and return to the walks of private life, that I should have found abundant leizure to discharge all my epistolary obligations; but here also I have, hitherto, been disappointed; for my long absence from home (except in short occasional visits, which allowed no opportunities to look into the state of my personal concerns, and buildings) has so deranged matters which related thereto, and has committed such depredations thereon, as, at no period have I found closer employment than in the last five months I have been at home, to repair the damages: and this will continue to be the case for sometime to come.

I am now seated in the shade of my own Vine and Fig tree, and shall devote the remainder of a life, nearly worn out to such Agricultural and rural amusements as will afford employment for myself, and cannot, or ought not, to give offence to any one; offering while I am on this Theatre, my sincere vows that the ravages of war, and the turbulance of passions; may yield their sceptors to Peace and tranquillity, that the world may enjoy repose.

Having withdrawn myself from the scenes of political life, Politics will not be the theme for my letters; and having little

to relate from the humbler, and placid walks into which I am now entered, that would be interesting or amusing to a person who is engaged in important matters, I shall only add that I have the honor etc.

## *To ARCHIBALD McLEAN

Mount Vernon, [August][3] 7, 1797.

Sir: I know nothing of the Bond of which you speak, in your letter of the 4th instant. If any such is in my possession *unsettled* (which by the bye) I do [illegible], it must, by frequent shiftings and removals, have got so out of place as to render it impracticable for me to find; as there is no such bond where it ought to be, if I had it. By my books, I find the account of Mr Jas Kirk thus stated. To bale. of yr. acct. on my Mill Book £58.7.10¼ Cr. Settled by the Assignmt. of a Bond of Magee's 58.7.10¼ So far as my memory serves me, the Bond was inadequate to discharge the above bale. with the interest due thereon; but as it was with difficulty I could get any thing, and this was likely to be the *whole,* it was taken and recd. in discharge, and the Bond given up; for the name of Magee is not to be found in my Book of A/c. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To NATHANIEL RAMSEY

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favours of the 20th. Ulto. and 7th. instant have both been received; the last yesterday.

If nothing happens to prevent it, I will dispatch a light Cart (not being disposed to lead the Calf the whole distance this warm weather) for Mr. Lloyds present; and two or three sheep

[3] Misdated by Washington, July.

from Mr. Gough, if he has of the sort I want, to dispose of. The Cart will leave this on Monday, and probably be at Baltimore on Tuesday.

In the meantime, if you should perchance see Mr. Gough, you would do me a favour to ask if he has [any] of the Cape sheep to dispose of, that he would recommend for breeding from, the broad tail Sheep is the kind I want. If he has, a ram, and one or two ewe Lambs of his *best* I would take, at his own price. If he has none, my Cart would have no occasion to proceed there.

For your kind attention to my late request I pray you to accept my thanks, and with great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To HENRY DORSEY GOUGH

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1797.

Sir: Having occasion to send a light carriage to Baltimore, I have directed the person (Mr. Jno. Anderson son of my Manager) who has charge of it, to call upon you and get a ram, and two ewe lambs of the Cape (broad tail) Sheep, if you have any to dispose of, and such as you would recommend for breeding.

I want them on account of the Mutton, and if the Ram was of the size and age to serve a score or more ewes this season, it would be desirable. If Mr. Anderson succeeds in his application for these sheep, the cost of them shall be paid to your order on demand. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To NATHANIEL RAMSEY

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1797.

Dear Sir: The bearer, Mr. Jno. Anderson, son of my Manager (with a light carriage) is sent for the calf from the Eastern

shore, and the sheep mentioned in my last, if Mr. Gough has them to spare. If you have not seen that Gentleman, and learnt that Andersons going to him would be fruitless, he is directed to proceed with the letter of which he is possessed, for Mr. Gough.

I would thank you for causing the enclosed advertisement[4] to be inserted three times with the interval of a week between each, the expence of which I will pay the Printer as soon as it is made known to me. Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed and fatiegued from the want of such a character as I am inviting.

Does the Baltimore Telegraph come under the description of a Democratic Paper? or what is its character and reputation? With great esteem, etc. [N. Y. P. L.]

## *To REVEREND ZECHARIAH LEWIS[5]

Mount Vernon, August 14, 1797.

Sir: Your favor of the 17th. Ulto came safe, but a good while after date. For the Sermons you had the goodness to send me I pray you to accept my thanks. The doctrine in them is sound, and does credit to the Author.

It does, indeed, give me pleasure to have such Sentiments as Mr. Custis has expressed to you, transmitted to me; and it would render *him* and *all* his friends an acceptable Service if in your letters to him you would endeavor to stimulate his pride, to impress upon his mind the advantages to be derived from education, and the wishes of his friends that he may turn

[4] This advertisement for a competent housekeeper at $150 per annum, or in place of a housekeeper a house steward to act as a butler, was first published in the *Federal Gazette and Baltimore Advertiser* of Aug. 17, 1797.

[5] He was a tutor at Yale College, New Haven, Conn

out a finished Scholar, and finally that this is no otherwise to be accomplished than by close application and a continuation at College.

To overcome an indolent temper, amusements, at present innocent but unprofitable, and to excite him to exert the talents which he possesses, constitute the difficulty at *present.* By and by perhaps, bad example, or the advice of dissipated young men, may increase it considerably. He has, I know, a friendship and regard for you, and I am persuaded your opinion on these topics would have a happy effect. With esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 14, 1797.

Dear Sir: It is a little out of time, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ulto; but "better late than never," and one object in doing it, is to pray you to thank Mr. Bordley in my name, for the work he had the goodness to send me, through the channel of your conveyance.

I presume the affair of Mr. Blount will lye dormant until the Committee of Congress make Report at the ensuing Session. It will be to be regretted, *much,* if this business is not probed to the bottom. That Government may not sleep or be forgotten in the meantime, I perceive Mr. Monroe has opened a Battery; but if his subsequent fire does no more injury than the first, his Artillery will recoil upon himself.[6]

[6]Pickering had written (August 9): "Mr. Monroe has anticipated me in furnishg. you, by his publication in the news-papers, the correspondence between us on the subject of his demanding the reasons of his recall. After such a solemn demand, so zealously maintained, and after such professions of candour, I did not imagine he would have had the folly to avow, as in his last letter, that he in fact wanted no information on this point: proving, what I supposed was his real object at first, that he made the demand *in order to be denied.* I kept a table ready for him in my office during a week, while I expected him to review his correspondence with the department: but he has never called, altho' he stated this as necessary for his information in his intended vindication." Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

It had escaped me, until reminded by a re-perusal of some of your first letters, that my Table ornaments and Coolers were in your possession. Not for the value of the thing, but as a token of my friendship and as a remembrancer of it, I ask you, Colonel Pickering, and Mr Wolcott to accept, each one of the two bottle Coolers; I think there are three of them. the other articles I pray you to have carefully packed (the Porcelain in fine Saw dust) and sent to Colo. Biddle, who will be directed what to do with them, and will pay the cost of packing.

What is the character of Porcupine's Gazette? I had thought when I left Philadelphia, of ordering it to be sent to me; then again, I thought it best not to do it; and altho' I should like to see both his and Bache's, the latter may, under all circumstances, be the best decision, I mean not subscribing to either of them.

Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis thanks you for your kind remembrance of them; and unite with me in best regards for Mrs McHenry, yourself and family. With much truth I am etc.

P. S. I shall rely on you to present the Coolers in my name to the Gentlemen above mentd. Since writing the letter which encloses this scrap, I have determined to let the Table ornaments and large Coolers go into the hands of Colo. Clement Biddle unpacked, to see if he can dispose of them; and I pray you to cause them to be delivered in that manner accordingly.

[N.Y.P.L.]

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, August 14, 1797.

Dear Sir: Not having any thing to communicate of sufficient moment to give you the trouble of receiving a letter from me, I have delayed until now, to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 10th. and 25th. Ulto.

When I left Philadelphia, Mr. Lear and Mr. Dandridge who remained, were directed to dispose of my Household furniture (such parts I mean as were not packed for a removal to this place) but from some misapprehension the Ornaments of my dining Table, and some Plated bottle Coolers, were not disposed of as were expected; but left in the care of Mr. McHenry (Secretary of War) subject to future orders, when they came away.

I have now to request that you will receive these from him, and if you can, to dispose of them (one of the Coolers excepted, concerning which I will write to you some time hence) on the best terms you can. it is not probable that any one, unless the Presidt. or any of the foreign Ministers should be so disposed, would take the *whole* of course to *retail* them, would be the most likely means of getting them off.

The articles you will receive, if I mistake not, will consist of two four bottle Coolers. A Platteau in nine pieces. three large groupes with glasses over them, two vases, and twelve small single figures, of Porcelain.

The Invoice of the Platteau I am unable, at present, to come at; but that of the figures is enclosed, as is the ones which contains the Cost of the Coolers, which were never used; there being four, originally, and two were found sufficient to answer my purposes.

I do not expect, notwithstanding they are new, that the one offered for Sale will fetch the cost, and the other things I am certain will fall much below it, as they have not only been used, but the Porcelain in some of its nicest parts, is injured. Although I have not been able to find the cost of the Platteau I have a memorandum which informs me that they stand me in 486 *Livres in Paris* exclusive of all the subsequent charges of transportation from thence to Havre, freight Insurance duty &ca &ca.

I send the Invoices for the satisfaction of yourself, and any who may be inclined to purchase; when this purpose is answered they may be returned to me.

Will you be so good as to ask Mr. Dobson[7] if there are no more Volumes of the American Edition of the Encyclopædia out: the 16th is the last I have received, and inform him at the sametime, that it is my wish that my second Sett (for I subscribed for two setts to encourage his undertaking the work) was neatly bound and sent to me, having given away the sett in Boards. With esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To WILLIAM PEARCE

Mount Vernon, August 14, 1797.

Sir: Your letter of the 24th of July has been received, and I thank you for your ready compliance with my request; but recollecting how I was served last year, I must remind you, that the season will not allow me to wait long for your decisive answer, especially too, as persons are now applying in this quarter.

I must repeat in this, what I said, or meant to say in my last, that is, that I do not wish you to enter into any engagement that will be binding on me; but to make enquiry for such an Overseer as *you* know would suit me; know precisely the lowest terms on which he could be obtained for Union Farm; and give me as speedy notice thereof as is in your power. Mr. Anderson seems to think that one man may Overlook both Union and Dogue-run Farms for the wages of Sixty pounds, but whether this would be more eligable than *two* at about £70 or £75 between them is questionably, as there are few Negroes

[7] Thomas Dobson, a Philadelphia printer. He published the *British Encyclopedia* in 20 volumes.

who will work unless there be a constant eye on them, or who will not slight it if there is not this eye.

The fallow fields at Union and Dogue-run farms looked well at Harvest; and I believe will yield well, but the Hessian fly had made an attack upon the latter which had injured it in some degree. Next year I expect this attack will be much more formidable, which is one reason why I propose to encrease my seeding with Rye, considerably this Fall. I perceived no difference between the French plowed part and the parts adjoining from hence the inference is that it was attended with no advantage; in the last Crop at least.

We have been as wet latterly as we were dry before; which, to me, has produced both good and evil. My Corn is much amended by it, but my Hay ruined; and I have had Wheat injured in the Stack. I am glad to hear that your Crop has, and promises to be, tolerable good. But am sorry that your own, and daughter Nancy's indispositions continue.

A small bag of Rye-grass seeds came here without any letter. We guessed from whence it came, but was not certain until some time after, when your letter announced it. For sending it I thank you, and if several bushels of the Seed could be purchased and sent to me, I would with pleasure pay the cost to your order.

Mrs. Washington and the rest of the family are as usual, and I am[8]

## *To REVEREND NEWBURGH BURROUGHS

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1797.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 22d May last, from Belfast; and wish it was in my power to give you a more satis-

[8] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

factory statement of the decd. Mrs. Savage's affairs in this country than I am about to detail.

True it is I was one of that unfortunate lady's trustees, and as true, that while I was in a situation to render her any services I performed them (jointly with the other trustee) as far, and as fast as the tedious delays of our Courts would suffer justice to be administered.

But from the year 1774 until the beginning of the year 1784, it was not in my power to attend to hers, or any private concerns of my own, being absent from this State (Virginia) eight years of the time; during the whole of which, and for sometime after, I believe there was a suspension of all law and all justice, except such as proceeded from a sense of honour, the last of which was no trait in the character of Doctr. Savage, husband of the Lady, for of all ingrates he was the most ingrateful.

While alive, and the Courts were open, he had recourse to all the chicaneres of Law, and all the subterfuge of Lawyers to avoid paying her annuity; and since his death, his Estate, if any, for there are various opinions concerning it, and much contention arising therefrom, would render it uncandid were I not to add, especially as the heirs of his Security (also dead) have pleaded the want of Assetts that it is my opinion, strengthned by the Report of the Revd. Mr. Fairfax, the other Trustee (who I believe has done all that circumstances would permit) that little is to be expected from the prosecution of this business.

The Suit is still going on, but without sufficient means to support it from hence, and the circumstances already mentioned, it has too much the appearance of throwing away good money after bad, to proceed. So far as I have an individual interest in the matter, the hope of a return of the money which

I advanced Mrs. Savage in her distress, when it was not in the power of her Trustees to force payment of the Annuity, and other expenditures in common with Mr. Fairfax, has vanished long since.

Having but lately returned home from a second eight years absence, which with many interruptions for public purposes between while, has prevented my taking active share in this business for upwards of twenty years, I have given it as my opinion to Mr. Fairfax, that it would be best to offer a per centage, or a good fee to the Lawyers prosecuting the Suit for the Claimants under Mrs. Savages Will, for all they can recover on this account; and to receive *nothing* unless they do, by way of Stimula to their exertions: What effect this will have, or whether any, remains to be decided. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To JOHN SEARSON

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1797.

Sir: Your letter of the 2d. instt. came duly to hand, and I wish with all my heart you could meet with such employment as your talents are suited to; but if you cannot obtain this in Philadelphia where your character is best known, it is not likely you would succeed better where you are less acquainted, and in places less populous. There is none within my view, in this quarter, in any of the lines to which you allude; and if you look for any thing in a public way you are already in the best situation to make the application with a prospect of Success, as the President will, unquestionably, require the best testimonials that can be obtained of your fitness for Office and these can only be had from those to whom you were known. If you are pleased to send one of your Poems to me Colo. Biddle will receive, pay, and forward it, to Sir, Yr. etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, August 21, 1797.

My dear Sir: Not for any intrinsic value the thing possesses, but as a token of my sincere regard and friendship for you, and as a remembrancer of me; I pray you to accept a Wine cooler for four bottles, which Colo. Biddle is directed to forward from Philadelphia (when with other articles it was left) together with this letter, to your address.

It is one of four, which I imported in the early part of my late Administration of the Government; two only of which were ever used.

I pray you to present my best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, to Mrs. Hamilton and the family; and that you would be persuaded, that with every sentiment of the highest regard, I remain your sincere friend etc.[9]

## To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, August 21, 1797.

Dear Sir: Since writing to you on the 14th Inst. I have received your letter of the 12th with the cost of the Picture frames and Glasses; to receive which soon would be convenient and agreeable to me.

The large Plated wine cooler reserved from sale in my last, I pray you to have carefully packed up and sent with the letter enclosed by a safe conveyance to Colo. Hamilton of New York.

I am in want of an *open stove* for a room that has no fire place in it. this stove is intended to stand crosswise an angle in a Garret room and must have a conductor from the upper part thereof into the flue of the adjoining Chimney. An Iron

[9] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

hearth and a fender to suit the same of a cheap kind must accompany it.

Enclosed I have endeavoured to describe in a parallel sketch my idea of the kind and size I want; but if this should be imperfectly understood I wou'd then ask you to look into what was my private study (over the bathing room) in the house I occupied in Philadelphia. I do not however see any occasion for the second turn wch that Pipe takes; and which probably is the cause of its smoking; an evil to be avoided if possible.

The sooner I could receive this Stove the more convenient it would be; as the room into which it is to be placed is now in hand.

I presumed when the Congress exempted me from postage of letters it was intended that I should be placed on the ground I formerly stood; that is, that letters *to* and *from* me should pass *free:* if it is not so understood and you are charged postage for the letters I address to you it is my desire that this postage should be paid at my cost as it was not my intention for the trifling and troublesome business you transact for me to saddle you therewith. With Esteem etc.[10]

## *To HENRY DORSEY GOUGH

Mount Vernon, August 23, 1797.

Sir: I feel, sensibly, your kind and polite attention to me, in the presentation of a bull calf of your *improved breed.* A very fine one indeed it is, and merits my particular thanks, which I pray you to accept.

My Stock of *all sorts* has been much neglected during my eight years residence from home, and will take more time than in the usual course of Nature will be allowed me, to improve

[10] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

them *much;* but with the means you have been so good as to furnish me, and other aids, I shall, by proper attention, put my black cattle into a way of improvement.

I am sorry to hear of the disease and consequent degeneracy of your Sheep. Before I left home in the spring of 1789 I had improved that species of my stock so much as to get 5¼ lbs of Wool as the average of the fleeces of my whole stock; and at the last shearing they did not yield me 2½ lbs. By procuring (if I am able) good Rams and giving the necessary attention, I hope to get them up again; for they are with me, as you have declared them to be with you, that part of my stock in which I most delight. With esteem and regard I have the honor etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, August 23, 1797.

Dear Sir: I am extremely sorry to find by yr. letter of the 17th instant and the Philadelphia Gazettes of that date, that the yellow fever has again made its appearance, and devoutly wish that it may soon be removed from your City.

Your motive for delaying the sale of my Table furniture is not only good as it respects the yellow fever but if you think any advantage would result from the measure it might be delayed until the assembling of Congress in Philadelphia some of the members might incline to become purchasers if the articles are retailed. Be so good as to ask Mr. Simmons what he has done with my old Coach and make the most you can of it. I will wait the publication of all the Vols. of the Encyclopedia before the Sett intended for *my use* is bound, but could wish to know when this may be expected, as I no longer possess the sett which are in boards. With esteem etc.[11]

[11] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 29, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favours of the 9th, 10th, and 19th instant have been duly received; for your care of my European letters, and attention to the copying Press, Laws of the U. S and journals of Congress, I feel myself obliged. If the Vessel has not already left Philadelphia, the Tryal, Captn. Hand, is up for Alexandria; and will afford a good conveyance for the above articles, as it has other small matters on board for me.

Colo. Monroe passed through Alexandria last week; but did not honor me by a call. If what he has promised the public does him no more credit than what he has given to it, in his last exhibition, his friends must be apprehensive of a recoil.

From a variety of accounts, as well as from extracts you had the kindness to send me, I have no doubt of a change in the sentiments of the People of France favourable to the interests of this Country; but I can scarcely believe that it will be so great, or so sudden as some imagine. Candour is not a more conspicuous trait in the character of Governments, than it is of Individuals. It is hardly to be expected then, that the Directory of France will acknowledge its errors; and tread back its steps *immediately*. This would announce, at once, that there has been precipitancy, and injustice in the measures they have pursued; or that it was incapable of judging, and had been deceived by false misrepresentations. Pride would be opposed to all these, and I can scarsely think the Directory will relinquish the *hold it has* upon those who, more than probable, have suggested, and promoted the measures, they have been pursuing. I rather suppose that it will lower its tone by degrees and (as is usual) place the change to the credit of *French magnanimity*. The report, as coming from Captn. Towers, that General

Pinckney had been invited to Paris by the Minister of Foreign Affairs attached itself in its passage to Philadelphia or passing through different hands; for General Lee (who hearing various reports of what the Captn. had related of his conversation with the General) went on board the Saratoga and got the details, without any mention of that fact, which wd. have been of too much importance for omission.

That the statement of facts in the printed letter to Genl. Pinckney will work conviction, and produce a change of conduct in those who are desirous of information, and not obstinately bent upon wrong measures, I have no doubt, and I can say with truth, that my mind has never been alarmed by any fears of a war with France. I always knew that this Government had no desire to go to war with that, or any other Country, and I as firmly believed that no Power, without a *semblance of justice* wd. declare war against it. That France has stept far beyond the line of *rectitude* cannot be denied; that it has been encouraged to do so by a party among ourselves, is, to my mind, equally certain; and when it is considered, moreover, that enriching themselves, and injuring Great Britain were the expected consequences of their Spoilations, I could account, (though not on honourable principles in them) for their going to a certain point, but I never did believe that they would declare an open war against us, or compel us, if they foresaw that would be the result, to declare it against them.

Enclosed you will receive, if this letter gets safe, $35 in bank notes of the United States; and it would add to my convenience if Mr Taylor would be so obliging as to have the press *fixed* for copying: for as the use of one was not practiced by me I may be at a loss in doing it. I do not mean that it should be accompanied by a Table, but board only between the Rollers, as the screws which I have to a small press, will I presume

answer for the other, I wou'd pray him also (if the press is still with him) to use it, and that if there be any imperfection, that it may be corrected before it comes hither, as I should be unable to do it afterwards. With very great esteem etc.

## *To THOMAS MACDONALD

Mount Vernon, August 29, 1797.

Sir: Your favor of the 19th, and the Vole. of Reports[12] which accompanied it, have been duly received. For your care of the latter, and particularly for having it bound, I pray you to accept my best thanks; and an assurance that, if inclination or business should induce you or Mr. Rich to visit the State of Virginia, I should think myself honored in seeing of you at my Seat.

Little doubt can be entertained of harmonious proceedings in any business, where men of character and honor, well disposed to do justice, are appointed to conduct it. That this is the case as it respects the Commissioners[13] under the Sixth Article of the Treaty between this country and Great Britain, I am persuaded; and that the fair and liberal decisions of the Board will be a means to strengthen the good understanding which happily exists between the two Countries, while justice is administered to all, I sincerely hope. I have the honor etc.

## To GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

Mount Vernon, August 29, 1797.

Dear Washington: Your letter of the 21st. instant, came to hand by the last post, and as usual, gave us pleasure to hear

[12] Of the British Board of Agriculture.

[13] Thomas Macdonald and Henry Pye Rich were the British Commissioners for carrying into effect the VIth Article of Jay's Treaty. They visited Mount Vernon Oct. 14–16, 1797.

that you enjoyed good health, were progressing well in your studies, and that you were in the road to promotion.

The senior class having left, or being on the point of leaving college, some of them with great éclat, ought to provoke strong stimulus to those who remain, to acquire equal reputation, which is not otherwise to be done than by perseverance and close application; in neither of which I hope you will be found deficient.

Not knowing the precise time that the vacation commences, I have put under cover with this letter to Doctor Smith, forty dollars to defray the expenses of your journey; and both your grandmamma and myself desire that you will not think of doing it by water, as the passage may not only be very tedious, but subject to a variety of accidents, to which a journey by land is exempt; and as the yellow fever is announced from authority to be in Philadelphia we enjoin it on you strictly to pursue the route, and the direction which you may receive from the president of the college, to avoid the inconveniences and consequences which a different conduct might involve you and others in.

Although I persuade myself that there is no occasion for the admonition, yet I exhort you to come with a mind steadfastly resolved to return precisely at the time allotted, that it may be guarded against those ideas and allurements which unbend it from study, and cause reluctance to return to it again. Better remain where you are than suffer impressions of this sort to be imbibed from a visit, however desirous that visit may be to you, and pleasing to your friends, who will prefer infinitely your permanent good, to temporary gratifications; but I shall make all fears of this sort yield to a firm persuasion, that every day convinces you more and more of the propriety and necessity of devoting your youthful days in the requirement of that

knowledge which will be advantageous, grateful, and pleasing to you in maturer years, and may be the foundation of your usefulness here, and happiness hereafter.

Your grandmamma (who is prevented writing to you by General Spotswood and family's being here) has been a good deal indisposed by swelling on one side of her face, but it is now much better. The rest of the family within doors are all well, and all unite in best regards for you, with your sincere friend and affectionate[14]

## *To THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

Mount Vernon, August 31, 1797.

Dear Sir: Having just been informed of your safe arrival in America, I was on the point of writing you a congratulatory letter on the occasion, welcoming you to the land whose liberties you had been so instrumental in establishing, when I received your favour of the 23d instant from Philadelphia; for which, and the Packet that you had the goodness to bear from Sir John Sinclair, I offer you my thanks.

I beg you to be assured that, no one has a higher respect, and veneration for your character than I have; or one who more sincerely wished, during your arduous struggle in the cause of liberty and your country, that it might be crowned with Success. But the ways of Providence are inscrutable, and Mortals must submit.

I pray you to believe, that at all times, and under any circumstances, it would make me happy to see you at my last retreat; from which I never expect to be more than twenty miles again. With great esteem, I remain &c.

[14] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington*.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 31, 1797.

Dear Sir: The last Mail brought me your favour of the 24th instant, covering a letter from General Kosciuszko. And presuming that the Attorney General is on his way to Virginia, I hope to receive soon, the Packets you committed to his charge. Not knowing where Genl Kosciuszko may be I pray your care of the enclosed to him as it is probable his movements will be known to you.

It is with extreme regret I hear of the Yellow fever being in Philadelphia and that so many families will be incommoded by a removal from it. Will it not render the meeting of Congress at that place uncertain? I sincerely hope that you may all escape, by steering clear of the malady.

With great esteem etc.

P. S. Hearing that Mr. Monroe's production is in the Press, I wd. thank you for a copy so soon as it issues from thence.

## *To ISRAEL SHREVE

Mount Vernon, September 1, 1797.

Sir: Your letter of the 30th. of July has been received but not untill within the last three days. Your judgment Bond was, long before, sent to Mr. Ross to bring suit on. What he has done in the matter I know not.

To sue, cannot be more unpleasant and disagreeable to you, than it is to me; but as the want of money, and a punctual payment of it, were the *only* motives to sell my lands in the Counties of Fayette and Washington, so a disappointment in these must defeat the objects which I had in view, and has been the cause of the prosecution to which I have resorted.

You could not be unacquainted with the nature of your contract for the land in Fayette county, nor with the tenor of your judgment Bond, given to fulfil it: of course, you must have known the amount of the Sums as they became due and that they were to be paid at the Bank of Pennsylvania on a certain day, by Instalments; why then would you trust to others to do your business; and by sending a little money by this, and a little by that man who knew not what to do with it when they got to Philadelphia, hazard the disappointments which followed? especially as that mode of payment was purposely guarded against in the contract, as one from whence I could derive no substantial benefit; whereas regular payment in the manner Colo. Richie has made them would have given me (although the land sold low) all the advantages I expected to derive from the Sale of those lands.

Not knowing what Mr. Ross has done in the premises, I know not what further to say in reply to your letter. If the arrearages are paid up, with interest to the time they became due; and the instalments regularly discharged afterwards, agreeably to the conditions of your Bond, it is all I require and all I can wish; for far is it from my desire to embarrass, or injure your character by a Law Suit: but if punctuality is not observed on your part a Suit (for the reasons I have already assigned) will be the inevitable consequence. And I do now, in explicit terms declare that it will be of no avail to say that such an one is to pay so much another so much, and so on. I shall have nothing to do with any of them; because I shall expect each years Instalment will, by the time it becomes due be deposited in the Bank of Pennsylvania, and made liable to my draught. This is a very simple mode, and what I shall rigidly exact. I have no Agent in Philadelphia to whom I would give the trouble of receiving money, nor do I want partial sums lodged there. The amount of the Instalmts. must be known to you, and the times

of their becoming due. My appropriations will correspond therewith. Nothing short of the whole sums will answer my purposes. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To JAMES HARRISON[15]

Mount Vernon, September 2, 1797.

Sir: Your letter of the 25th Ulto. came to hand by the last Post.

The ground Rent of the lot I have offered to Lease, in Alexandria, is three dollars a foot, for what it measures on *each* Street. This I must obtain as an annual Rent or the lot will not be disposed of in that way. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To LAWRENCE AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON[16]

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1797.

Dear Lawrence: Your letter of the 23d of the last, was received on the first day of the present month.

In the interesting event which you have announced, I sincerely wish you and the lady who is to be the partner of your future fortunes, all imaginable happiness. To attain which, depends very much upon the parties themselves: and from the character you have drawn of Miss Wood, and from what I have heard of it from others, I think your prospects are fair and pleasing.

If any substantial good could result from my becoming a guest at your Wedding, I would make exertions to be there; but as wedding Assemblies are better calculated for those who are *coming in to,* than to those who are *going out* of life, you must accept the good wishes of your Aunt and myself in place

[15] Of New York City.
[16] Son of Samuel Washington.

of personal attendance, for I think it not likely that either of us will ever be more than 25 miles from Mount Vernon again, while we are inhabitants of this Terrestrial Globe.

We offer our respects to the family with whom you are going to connect yourself, and in a particular manner I desire to be presented to the old lady, Grandmother of Miss Wood; for whom I have, and always had, a very high esteem and regard; present us also to your brother and his family. I remain, etc.

## *To JOHN O'DONNELL

Mount Vernon, September 4, 1797.

Sir: I am going to take a liberty with you, for which I rely more on your goodness, than on any excuse I can make, for pardon.

A person of the name of Anthony Heusler, a German (in the vicinity of Baltimore) has offered himself to me as a Gardener. He professes to understand that business in *all* its branches, and *well* in each, representing himself moreover as a person of some property, and very sober. He adds that, his wife (about his own age) is a very decent woman, and capable of the duties of a Housekeeper.

Such characters would be useful to me at this time; but I told Mr. Heusler that I could not employ strangers, in either of those capacities, without ample testimonials of their qualifications; and with respect to himself that they must go to these points. 1. skill in the line of his profession. 2 Honesty. 3 Soberiety. 4 moral character generally. 5 orderly deportment, and 6. Industry; for although I usually employed two or three negroes under my hired Gardener, it was not for the purpose of exempting the *latter* from Manual labour.

For information respecting these matters, he has refered me to you; who he says has a knowledge of him from his having

lived on some estate of yours. On this ground then it is, I am induced to ask the favour of you to give me the character of Mr. Heusler. It is not easy to conceive what his wife, to whom, according to his own account he has been married upwards of 20 years, can, from the station she has filled, without having previously acquired it, be well qualified for keeping such a house as mine but if she is neat in her person, sensible active, honest and spirited; and possesses any knowledge in cookery, she might be very useful to Mrs. Washington, notwithstanding.

I must again pray your excuse for the trouble this application must give and request that I may, as soon as is convenient, hear from you on this subject.[17] I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, September 6, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 30th Ult was received by the last Post.

As the Encyclopaedia might be useful, to have by me (though wanting the last Volume or two) I would if the binding business goes on as usual, request Mr. Dobson to have all that are published, neatly bound and sent to me, except the *last Vole.* which may be retained as a sample to bind the remainder by. I do not recollect, but suppose the receipts will show, whether he has been paid for *both* sets I subscribed for, or only one; be this as it may, he shall be satisfied on the delivery.

I feel very sensibly for the alarm of the Citizens of Philadelphia, and for the calamity brought on that place by the Yellow fever; and devoutly wish the speedy disappearance of it. With great esteem etc.

[17] A copy of O'Donnell's answer (September 9), in the writing of William B. Sprague, is in the *Washington Papers.* Washington spells the name "O'Donald."

## *To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, September 8, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 27th. Ulto. with its enclosures, came safe to hand.

When the negociable note for $1000 is paid, and the 30 barrels of Corn are received, the amount of both will be carried to your credit.

I am told that the *present* price of Wheat in Alexandria is 8/. but I can fix no price *now* for what may be delivered 2, 3, 4 or even 6 months hence, or perhaps, not at all (if you depend upon purchasing) in case of a rise; when there is no obligation to deliver a specific quantity, or at any specified time. All I can say on this subject is, that if you have Wheat of your own to dispose of, or can purchase and deliver it at my Mill, where, with my convenience of Boats and hands, it can be done as expeditiously as at Alexandria, I will allow, at the *times of delivery,* the full price that is given *in cash* at the latter place; more I cannot, less I do not wish to do, as the price of my flour must be regulated by the cost of the Wheat.

You cannot, I presume, be at a loss from the statement of the acct. between us, when you will recollect that $6,666 32/100 was, by agreement, with interest on the whole sum of $20,000; to have been paid me on the first day of december last; and that on the 27th. of Feby. following, you paid me seven hundred dollars in cash, and gave me Reed & Fords obligation to transfer 70 shares (a month after) in the Bank of Columbia; the value of which you estimated at 40 dollars each, when they were actually selling at that moment in the market, at, or near, 18 pr Ct. under par; by which I actually received no more than about $2300 in lieu of $2800; besides loosing a months

interest on the last mentioned sum, for which my receipt was passed.

As the payments here mentioned, are all I have received, except 90 Barrels of Corn delivered the — day of last month at 21/8, I presume the object of your request must be to know in what light I view the payment of the 70 shares. I shall therefore frankly declare, that if a disinterested judge is to be found, who will say that I ought, under the circumstances which prevailed at the time, to loose the difference between the nominal and real price of the shares, I will never utter another word on the subject; if there is not, or if there are no other circumstances of which I am ignorant, I conceive you yourself will not think it reasonable, or just, that I should loose near $500 in the payment of $2800 when my sole motive for receiving these shares at all was (inconveniently for myself) to accommodate you.

You say you informed me at the time that they were selling a little under par, and as you have said, so I will admit it; though my hurried situation at that time leaves no trace thereof on my memory; while there are several facts which cannot have escaped yours: was it not more than once (without urging it ardently) I informed you I was in want of money to clear me out of Philadelphia properly, and was obliged at last to leave the City (without providing many articles of which my family stood in need of), that I had declined receiving Wilsons Notes when they were proposed because I could not depend upon converting them into cash; that the offer of Columbia stock, was late and unexpected, of course seeing no other prospect of obtaining any part of the Instalment; I took them as an accommodation to you; for it will not be denied that if I had been disposed to appropriate money to this use, I could, and would have been my own caterer, as I was coming to the City; that

under these circumstances, hurried and perplexed at the close of the Session as I then was with Executive and Legislature business, and with the necessary attention to the change wch. was about to take place in my private concerns, afforded no leisure to inquire into the value of Columbia Bank Stock, even if I had attended to your information concerning it, and I should from a cursory enquiry only have been struck with no other idea than what occurs continually at the Bank of Alexandria, viz, that just *before* a dividend, the stock is a little above, and just *after* a little below its nominal Value.

I have expressed myself thus, because it comports with my ideas, of truth and justice and propriety; but I mean to enter in no contention, or dispute on the subject being with very great esteem and regard Dear Sir Your etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, September 11, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8th. instant[18] was given to me yesterday by Mr. Jno. Bassett.

If you had intimated a wish to Lease my River Farm a Month or two ago, all matters might, with ease, have been arranged before this; but as I had heard nothing in that time from the English Farmer who had been in Treaty for it, I had relinquished the idea of letting it next year, and in consequence, have engaged Stuart, Sown the principal part of my Winter Grain, and made all the necessary dispositions for the ensuing Season. I do not therefore, at this moment, see how they can be dispensed with. If upon further reflection however on the subject, and a consultation with Mr. Anderson, the measure can

[18] It stated he would occupy the "Walnut Tree farm" in the fall and manage the River Farm from there. Lear's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

be gone into without involving difficulties which cannot be easily surmounted, you shall hear further from me on this subject. and learn more minutely the details of my Plan, and the conditions on which the Farm will be let; for these will be specific, and exacted from the Tenant whomsoever he may be.

If that Farm is not Rented next year, there is nearly a moral certainty (if I am alive) it will be so the year after: My object being, to reduce my income to a certainty; and to get relieved in my latter years (if I have any to pass) of the trouble and perplexities incident to such an estate as mine is, from the constitution of it.

Although nothing (except the Rent pr Acre) is definitely fixed in my *own* mind relative to the *precise* terms on which I propose to lease my Farms, yet, to give you a more comprehensive view of my ideas in this respect, I enclose you a printed Advertisement of them; published near two years since, my thoughts upon the subject at that period, and Mr. Anderson's sketch of a lease when application was made for River Farm by the Person before alluded to; that you may gather, from thence, the outlines of my views and intentions; but more particularly, that you might not be under a mistake with regard to the Fisheries (which have always been considered as distinct objects, although they might be omitted in the same lease), the slipes of old field without the present fences, and the Woodland; not an acre of which will be suffered to be cleared for the purpose of cultivation, nor a stick carried off the premises for any purpose whatsoever; nor used thereon except in the manner, and for the purposes which are mentioned in one or more of the enclosed Papers.

After perusing the manuscript ones, I beg they may be returned by the Post, as I have no copy of either.

With great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, September 15, 1797.

Dear Sir: The Picture frames are received and without the smallest injury to the glasses, for the careful packing of which I feel myself obliged.

I pray you to send me four more gilt frames at a dollar a foot running measure for paintings, no glasses; the size of the frames to shew the canvass one foot 7¾ Inches by 1. 4¼ within the frame.

Upon a more careful examination of the Place which the stove written for some time since is wanted, I find I was not correct in the direction I then gave and have endeavoured *now* to explain it better by transmitting the exact form of the Room, shewing the angel in which the stove is to be fixed; the manner of fixing it and the exact size and proportions of the same with its relative situation to the Chimney (wall) and partition as mentioned in the Plan.

I have written thus far on a supposition that a Stove, has not been provided agreeably to the directions in my last, and provided also than one agreeably to the enclosed plan, without difficulty and without delay could be sent, but if the first is already procured, I would have it sent on without loss of time; if not and the one I am now furnishing a plan of could be substituted I would prefer it: nor should I object to *both* if the former is on hand and the latter could be obtained with ease and without much delay.

The first of Octr. will put you into the receipt of another quarters interest of my certificate otherwise I would forward money to you for the purpose of meeting the expences of those calls as it is by no means my wish or desire to run you into any advance for me or on my account. With esteem etc.

PS. I wou'd thank you for causing the Advertisement herewith sent, to be inserted agreeably to the endorsation thereon, and for paying the expence for doing it. Send me the History of the United States (by whom I know not) but the one which contains Nos. 5 and 6 alluded to in Colo. Hamiltons late Pamphlet.[19]

## *To GEORGE PEARSON[20]

Mount Vernon in Virginia, September 15, 1797.

Sir: Your letter of the 12th. of May has been received, but not until within these few days: to which you will please to consider the following as a reply.

Having been long in public life, and but little in this State for the last five and twenty years; and moreover having had but very little agency in the Administration of the deceased Colo. Thomas Colvils affairs even antecedant thereto, no consideration short of being the *surviving* Executor of his Will and the imperious necessity occasioned thereby of bringing matters to a close, could possibly have induced me to resume any Agency therein.

Under these circumstances however, I have at all times, of late, when it was in my power, used my best endeavours to have the accounts closed, in order to ascertain the surplus which that Gentleman had bequeathed to the nearest relations of his Mother, of the names of Stott, Wills, Richardson and Catharine Smith, of Durham; or their decendants: and with much difficulty and the aid of a Gentleman (Mr. Keith) well acquainted with this sort of business, have accomplished it, as you may see by having recourse to a notification in the London

[19] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The pamphlet is known as the Reynold's Pamphlet. It was printed by John Bioren for John Fenno (Philadelphia: 1797) under the title *Observations on Certain Documents Contained in Nos. V and VI of The History of the United States for the Year 1796*, etc.

[20] Clerk of the Peace of Durham, England.

Gazette of December last consequent of a decree of the high Court of Chancery in this State.

The persons just named, or those claiming under them, may, perhaps, be disappointed at the smallness of the sum, viz, nine hundred and thirty two pounds seventeen shillings an seven pence three farthings, estimating dollars at Six shillings; which, upon the final settlement was found to be the surplusage of the Testators estate after his Debts and special legacies were discharged; but if they will advert to the clause of the Will under which they claim, and which was published in England many years ago, there ought not to be any surprize, as it there appears that the *Testator himself* was in doubt whether there would be *any overplus at all.*

The reason why that sum (now actually in the Bank of Alexandria) was submitted to the decision and disposition of the Chancellor, was, because there had been so many claims exhibited; of so vague a nature; and some of them accompanied by such unjust and indecent insinuations, that I did not incline to enquire into the merits of the respective claims, or to become responsible for the distribution of the Money. All those who have pretentions under the Will to a Share of the before mentioned sum, will now know where to send their proofs; and to receive an order for their proportion of the Devise, having nothing more to do in the matter myself. I am etc.

[N. Y. P. L.]

## *To ANTHONY HEUSLER

Mount Vernon, September 18, 1797.

Mr. Heusler: I should have written to you at an earlier period, but for the following reasons.

First, because as I informed you, I had written to Scotland for a complete Gardner under Indentures; and expected every day to learn the result of my application. I could not therefore,

enter into engagements with another without hazarding a disappointment to one of the parties, or a surplusage of men in that line, which would have been useless, and inconvenient to myself; and secondly, because I requested you not to forego any other plan you might have in contemplation, while I remained in the state of incertitude I had expressed to you.

I have now, within a day or two, received a letter from the Gentleman to whom I applied in Scotland, to engage me a Gardener, promising that he wd. endeavour to comply with my request, and hoped he should succeed; thus, the matter stands on uncertain ground yet.

The presumption however is, that a few weeks will decide whether I am to receive a Gardener from Scotland, or not: If the latter, I will delay no time in giving you notice thereof; and will accompany the communication with the specific terms on which I would employ you: which, if you shd. be disengaged at the time, will require no other answer than yea, or nay.

I can only repeat now, what I said to you when you were here last, that from the circumstances I am under, and the uncertainty of the case, it is not my wish, or desire that you should avoid any employment worthy of your acceptance, in expectation of getting into my Service. I remain etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To WILLIAM TRIPLETT

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1797.

Sir: I have examined my land papers, but find I possess none which relate to my purchase from Mr. Simon Pearson; all of

On September 20 Washington wrote to Augustine Davis, publisher of the *Virginia Gazette and General Advertiser,* at Richmond, and to Matthew Brown and Leonard Yundt, publishers of the *Federal Gazette and Baltimore Daily Advertiser,* Baltimore, requesting the insertion of an advertisement for the sale of covering jacks, descendants of "Royal Gift" and sundry horses and mares. This letter and the text of the advertisement, which was signed by James Anderson, manager, is in the New York Public Library.

them having been turned over, with my transfer, to Mr. Lund Washington.

I can form no idea of what Grafton Kirk &ca. are to exhibit in evidence on this occasion. I sincerely believe that all the proceedings in, and docking of, the entail of the land to which Mr. Thos. Pearson now sets up a claim, were strictly conformable to law, and of more validity than Graftons testimony; whose impression of it, is not *quite immaculate,* but so much the reverse, as to be a ready witness upon all occasions. Nothing suggests itself to my mind as ground on which a suit can be instituted, unless it be alledged that some of the Jurors were not freeholders, a thing I never have heard surmised, and strange indeed to be proved, five and thirty years after their verdict was given and (as I presume) admitted to record.

The Deeds, if well drawn, do, no doubt, recite the case, and names of the Jurors, but admitting the foregoing mistake in the Sheriff, would a Court of equity suffer an innocent purchaser to sustain an injury from the misconception or inattention of that Officer to his duty? I think not.

You told me on Saturday that Simon Pearson left no legitimate children, and that his Brother Thomas was the *lawful heir,* but to whom has descended, or rather to whom did Simon (if he left a Will) bequeath his Estate? For if there be any irregularity in the process of docking the Entail, and Thos. should, which I think not at all likely, recover the land for which he is contending, that estate must be resorted to: It cannot surely be in possession of Thomas, for in that case the contest wd. be with himself, because he wd. have *to pay* for all he obtained.

When you know the result of the evidence you are summoned to hear, I shd. be glad to be informed of it, and with esteem I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To THOMAS LAW

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your note of the 28th Ult. by Mr. Frestal, was received on Friday last.

My expences are so great and my resources so small, that it is but little in my power to promote such plans as you advocate. To clear me out of Philadelphia, and to lay in a few necessaries for my family, I sold two valuable tracts of land in the State of Pennsylvania a short time before I left the City. for 22,000 dollars; and since my arrival have sold other lands in Virginia the proceeds of all which (so far at least as hath been received) are nearly expended.

To encourage however a Hotel at the Capitol, I authorise you if the plan is likely to succeed, on the terms you have suggested to put my name down to five Shares.

I am glad to hear that the public buildings progress well. As the period for their accomplishment approaches, there can be little doubt but that private buildings will also advance rapidly; I wish they were in such a state of forwardness as to claim the attention of Congress, if the Calamity which is inflicted on Philadelphia and other Sea port Towns, should render the removal of that body from the present Seat of the Government necessary.

We rejoice to hear that Mrs. Law and the little girl are well, we are so. And all Unite with Affecte. regards for you and them, With Dear Sir etc.

## *To THOMAS C. MARTIN[21]

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1797.

Sir: I have already erected a threshing machine on Mr. Bookers plan, and was on the point of putting up one or two more

[21] Of King and Queen County, Va.

when I received a letter from a Gentleman of my acquaintance informing me that you had invented one which did more execution with less force. This has induced me to suspend the erection of those on Mr. Bookers plan, until I can receive better information relative to yours, and this is the cause of my giving you the trouble of receiving this letter and praying that you would be so obliging as to give it.

The advantage which Mr. Bookers has over the Scotch Machine (which I never saw) lyes, it is said, in being less expensive, and less complex, particularly in the substitution of a band in place of cogs and rounds; which, as I have understood, (with the expence thereof) is the principal objection to the latter.

Not having heard whether you have obtained a Patent for the invention of yours, or mean to apply for one, I would not have it understood that my application for information into the principle on which yours act, the power which works it, or the execution, is calculated to deprive you of any benefit which might result in either case.

The object of my enquiry is merely to know whether yours (nothing being more interesting to the farmer) is upon a simple plan and not easily put out of order in the hands of ignorant negros, and careless Overseers; whether cheap, and easily erected, what the execution; and with what force it is worked; together with the manner of working it, and the house proper for its reception.

If in these particulars, on a fair comparison with Mr. Booker's, it obtains a preference, I shall certainly, as I am about to provide conveniences of this sort for getting my grain out of the straw, erect yours instead of his: and whether built by my own People or others, I am perfectly willing to allow the Patent fee if it exists, or to stand upon the same footing that others do to avail myself of the best discovery in this or any other

country to effect so valuable an end. Your answer to these queries would very much oblige me as my ulterior measures depend upon them and my want of machines to get my grain out in a clean and expeditious mode, pressing. I hope you will have the goodness to excuse the liberty I have herein taken and believe that I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1797.

My dear Sir: The ardent desire which Mr. La Fayette feels to embrace his Parents and Sisters in the first moments of their liberation, induces him to set out for New York, or further Eastward, in search of a Passage to France.

It was my opinion that he had better have awaited authentic accounts of this event; but his eagerness to see his friends, the fear of a Winter passage, and a conviction that he is under no predicament that would render his reception in France at all embarrassing to him, even if he should be disappointed in meeting his friends there, has prevailed.

I am sure it is unnecessary that I should recommend him and Mr. Frestal to your civilities while they may be detained in New York; or to your aid in procuring them a passage to France: but I will request, if circumstances should call for greater pecuniary means than they possess, that you would be so good as to furnish them, and draw upon me for the amount, and it shall be paid at sight.

---

On October 7 Washington wrote to Dr. William Thornton: "Genl. Washington presents his compliments to Doctr. Thornton. Mrs. Washington recollecting her promise of saving him a few of the Spanish Chestnuts, some are now sent. They are immediately from the tree, and should, without delay, be planted where they are intended to remain, or put into a box with earth, otherwise they will soon get hard and worm eaten, and the vegitation be prevented." This note is in the *William Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Present Mrs. Washington and myself in the most affectionate manner to Mrs. Hamilton, and be assured always of the very high esteem and regard with which I am etc.[22]

## *To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1797.[23]

My dear Sir: This letter will, I hope and expect, be presented to you by your Son, who is highly deserving of such Parents as you and your amiable Lady.

He can relate, much better than I can describe, my participation in your sufferings, my solicitude for your relief, the measures I adopted (though ineffectually) to facilitate your liberation from an unjust and cruel imprisonment, and the joy I experienced at the news of its accomplishment. I shall hasten therefore to congratulate you, and be assured no one can do it with more cordiality, with more sincerity, or with greater affection, on the restoration of that liberty which every act of your life entitles you to the enjoyment of; and I hope I may add, to the uninterrupted possession of your Estates, and the confidence of your Country. The re-possession of these things, though they cannot compensate for the hardships you have endured, may, nevertheless soften the painful remembrance of them.

From the delicate and responsible situation in which I stood as a public officer, but more especially from a misconception of the manner in which your son had left France (till explained in a personal interview with himself) he did not come immediately into my family on his arrival in America, tho' he was

[22] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

From a facsimile of a portion of Washington's expense account (Oct. 8, 1797), in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress, is the following: "Gave Mr. G. W. La Fayette a check on the Bank of Alexandria for the purpose of defraying his Expenses to France $300."

[23] The "Letter Book" copy is misdated 1798.

assured in the first moments of it, of my protection and support. His conduct, since he first set his feet on American ground, has been exemplary in every point of view, such as has gained him the esteem, affection and confidence of all who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance. His filial affection and duty, and his ardent desire to embrace his parents and Sisters in the first moments of their releasement, would not allow him to await the authentic account of this much desired event; but at the sametime that I suggested the propriety of this, I could not withhold my assent to the gratification of his wishes, to fly to the Arms of those whom he holds most dear; persuaded as he is, from the information he has received, that he shall find you all in Paris.

M. Frestal has been a true Mentor to George. No Parent could have been more attentive to a favourite Son; and he richly merits all that can be said of his virtues, of his good sense, and of his prudence. Both your son and him carry with them the vows, and regrets of this family, and of all who know them. And you may be assured that you yourself never stood higher in the affections of the People of this country than at the present moment.

With what concerns myself, personally, I shall not take up your time; further than to add, that I have once more retreated to the shades of my own Vine and Fig tree, where I shall remain with best vows for the prosperity of that country for whose happiness I have toiled many years, to establish its Independence, Constitution, and Laws, and for the good of mankind in general, until the days of my sojournment, whh. cannot be many, are accomplished.

Having bid a final adieu to the walks of public life, and meaning to withdraw myself from the Politics thereof, I shall refer you to Mr. Frestal and George, who (at the sametime that they have, from prudential considerations, avoided all

interference in the Politics of the Country) cannot have been inattentive observers of what was passing among us, to give you a general view of our situation, and of the party, which in my opinion, has disturbed the Peace and tranquillity of it. And with sentiments of the highest regard for you, your lady and daughters, and with assurances that, if inclination or events should induce you, or any of them, to visit America, no person in it would receive you with more cordiality and affection, than [Mrs. Washington and myself would do, both of us being most sincerely and affectionately attached to you and admirers of them, yours, ever, &c.][24]

## *To REVEREND SAMUEL STANHOPE SMITH

Mount Vernon, October 9, 1797.

Dear and Revd. Sir: I have duly received your several letters of last month; but as an expression of my regret, at the conduct and behaviour of young Custis would avail nothing I shall not trouble you by the attempt.

I am persuaded that your conduct towards him, has been such as friendship inspired, and the duties of your important trust required. And as you have seen, in a degree what my solicitude, advice and admonition have been, he will have himself only to upbraid for any consequences which may follow, and this perhaps come too late.

By Mr. la Fayette who is on his way to New York to embark for France, I send you Bank notes to the amount of $100 in discharge of the balance of the acct. transmitted ($65); the twenty advanced Mr. Custis when he left Princeton and any other unpaid bills which may hereafter appear. And with thanks

[24] From the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. The part in brackets is supplied from the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

for your polite attention to, and care of him while he was under your superintendance, I remain with the highest esteem, regard and respect etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 9, 1797.

Dear Sir: Mr. Thomas Pearson, heir intail to Simon Pearson, his Brother, has brought suit in the Court of this County, for the lands which the latter sold to Wm. Triplett, George Johnson and myself, five and thirty Years ago.

I understand from Colo. Simms who is Pearsons Lawyer, that his complaint is founded upon some irregularity in the proceedings of the Jury, who met on the land to value the same, pursuant to a Writ of ad quod damnum. And the examination of the evidence to prove these irregularities went (for I attended) to the establishment of two Points: 1st. that there was no survey of the premises in presence of the Jury, that the time of their enquiry into the value of the land. and 2ly. that the said Jury did not explore it sufficiently to ascertain with exactness what the real value of the land was.

This is the amount of Grafton Kirks evidence, who was one of the Jurors, and who from your Practice in Fairfax County you may have learnt, is a rare hand at all obsolete claims that depend much on a *good memory*.

As I shall be ultimately affected in this business if Pearsons claim obtains (having sold my part of the Tract (178 Acres) to Mr. Lund Washington it behooves me to look into the matter timously. let me then ask your opinion on the following points?

1st. Does the Law providing for the Docking of Entails, by a writ of ad quod damnum, make a survey in presence of the Jury an essential Part of the proceedings?

The Writ itself (of which I retained a Copy) directing the sheriff to summon respectable men of his County for the purpose of ascertaing. the value of the land &c., requires no such thing.

2d. Who is to Judge of the mode by which a Jury on Oath is to report *their* Opinion of the value of the land if they are not to do it themselves?

Mr. Kirk swears he did not on the day traverse a foot of the land. Why because says he living adjoining thereto; I could not be made better acquainted with it than I was; neither did Jno. Askins (another of the Jury men) stir from the house at which they met; on the *Land*. Why again? because Jno. Askins knew it as well as he did. The rest of the Jurors he acknowledged rode but were not gone long enough to go over quarter part of the land. These if not the words are the literal meaning of them, and the sum of Grafton Kirk's evidence. No tampering with the Jury to under value the land is even hinted at. and the transfers devises and descent to Simon Pearson are admitted to be good in order to prove that the said Simon held the land in fee tail and dying (as they say) without *legitimate* Children that Thos. Pearson his brother is heir in Tail.

3d. Whether as Simon was lawfully married and never legally devorced the children of that woman though begotten (no matter by whom) in the state of separation from *him* is not a barr to the claim of Thomas?

4th. What operation will the Act of Assembly of Virginia for Docking *all* Entails, (passed many years after the land in dispute was Docked by a writ of ad quod damnum, and sold in 1762) and many years too before the death of Simon Pearson which only happened last Spring have in this Case? It being understood that the said Simon conveyed the 178 acres, to me with a general Warrantee.

5th. I would ask how far my conveyance of the said land to Mr. L. Washington with a general Warrantee also, make me

liable for the buildings as well as the land which has been placed thereon? and

6th. Whether I had better interest myself in defending the suit already commenced in the County Court, or await the decision there and take it up in the dernier resort if it shd. be adverse. I wish also as the case in my Judgmt. turns upon simple points which do not require much study, or research, to be informed (confidentially) whether in your opinion Mr. Swan's demand for defending the suit is not unreasonable? viz.: $100 in hand and the like sum at the close of the business?

You may think me an unprofitable applicant in asking opinions and requiring services of you without dousing my money, but pay day may come. If the cause should go to the higher Courts I shall expect you will appear for me, and Mr. Marshall also (if you should not have quit the practice). If the latter should not be returned in time, say who else had I best employ? I beg you will send me and as soon as you can certified copies from the Records of Richmond, of the papers mentioned in the enclosed. With sincere friendship &c.

P. S. Whether Colo. Simms has any thing in petto I am unable to say, I am told however that he is sanguine and some add that he is to go snacks.[25]

## *To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1797.

Sir: Your favours of the 6th. and 8th. instant have both been received, and I pray you to accept my best thanks for the rare and valuable present you have made me. Being the produce of your own Estate renders it more acceptable, and nothing will add more to the go'at of it, than your coming sometimes to participate in the taste, fog, or no fog.

[25] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

I have no doubt but that the section of Square No 21 is judiciously designed. It is perfectly agreeable to me. Mrs. Washington unites with me in best regards for Mrs. Thornton and yourself, and with great esteem etc.[26]

## *To FRANCIS WALKER

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1797.

Dear Sir: In answering your favor of the 28th. Ulto. which has been duly received; I wish it was in my power to give you more satisfactory information than you will find, in this letter, relative to the lands near Suffolk.

Some years ago (before, if my memory serves me, I was called to Administer the Government of the U States) Mr. John Lewis, as Exectuor of his father, Colo. Fielding Lewis's Will, informed me that the circumstances of that estate required that his father's interest in the lands wch. were bought by him, your father and myself, lying as above, should be sold. In reply, I told him that any bargain for it that Doctr. Walker and himself would make, I would abide by. Since which I have never heard a tittle from either, on this subject. Nor do I know in whose possession, or under what circumstances the lands now are. That they are not sold I am inclined to believe, because the title papers are still in my care, and no application has ever been made for them.

These, from a cursory examination, appear to be from.

| | Acres |
|---|---|
| Josh. Jones to G. W. T. W.[27] and F L.[28] for 2 tracts | 872 |
| Jas. Wright Do. Do. Do. | 50 |
| Stepn. Wright Do. Do. Do. | 100 |
| Kings Patent Do. Do. Do. | 188 |
| Total..... | 1210 |

[26] From the *William Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[27] Thomas Walker.
[28] Fielding Lewis.

I thank you for offering to sell me your interest in the above lands, but I have no disposition to become the purchaser, having lately sold my share of the Company's property in the Dismal swamp, and formerly a tract adjoining thereto, held by the deceased Colo. Lewis and myself; I shall be willing, however, at any time, to join you and Mr. John Lewis in disposing of them to any other purchaser. With esteem etc.[29]

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 28th. Ulto. has been received, and I sincerely regret the continuance of the Malady which afflicts the City of Philadelphia, and other Seaport Towns; but hope the frosts which we have lately had, and the approaching cold, will eradicate the disorder.

The Season rendering the Room for which I wanted a Stove in a manner useless for the purpose it was designed, I have procured one in Alexandria. Although it is not altogether such as I wanted, a very good shift can be made with it; and as it superceds the necessity of those I had written to you for, I have now to request you will decline sending them, or either of them. The other matters you will be so good as to send when an opportunity offers. With esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To BENJAMIN GOODHUE[30]

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1797.

Dear Sir: The Fish you had the goodness to send me, arrived very safe; and are excellent; for your recollection of that

[29] From a photostat of the original owned by Dr. Wm. C. Rives, of Washington, D. C.
[30] Senator from Massachusetts.

request of mine, and the trouble you were at to obtain the best kind, I pray you to accept my grateful thanks.

The money, as you desired, was paid to Captn. Silver, to the amount of your memorandum of their cost; and they shall be stored, and dressed agreeably to the directions contained in your letter, for giving which I feel myself obliged.

No man wishes more devoutly than I that a stop was put to the further effusion of blood; that harmony was restored to all nations; and that justice was done to ours: but I must confess that my *hope* of seeing them accomplished *soon,* exceed my *expectation.* The affairs of Europe seem to me to be in so purturbed a state, and the views of the principal Actors so discordant that it is not easy, on rational principles and fair calculation to predict events.

Nothing is wanting in ourselves to steer clear of the vortex of misery, which has brought so many of the Nations of Europe to the brink of ruin in this desolating war, but unanimity; and if a steady adherance to the principles which have hitherto directed our councils is unable to effect this, it will nevertheless I hope, avert the evils which, otherwise might be expected to flow from the persevering opposition which is levelled at our government; and all those who stand forward in support of it. This is my Creed, and I shall believe in it until the contrary is verified, which Heaven avert! Adieu, with very great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1797.

Revd. Sir: Your favour of the 20th Feb: has been received, and I am indebted to you for many other unacknowledged letters. The truth is, I soon found after entering upon the duties of my late public station, that private correspondences did not

accord with official duties; and being determined to perform the latter to the best of my abilities, I early relinquished the former, when business was not the subject of them.

It might be asked, why suffer the letter of the 20th. of February (which is of the latter description) to remain unacknowledged, after I had, months past, bid adieu to my public walks? The answer is easy; an eight years absence from home (excepting short occasional visits) had so deranged my private affairs; had so despoiled my buildings; and in a word, had thrown my domestic concerns into such disorder, as at no period of my life have I been more engaged than in the last six months, to recover and put them into some tolerable train again.

Workmen in most countries, I believe, are necessary plagues; in this where entreaties as well as money must be used to obtain their work, and keep them to their duty they baffle all calculation in the accomplishment of any plan, or repairs they are engaged in; and require more attention to, and looking after, than can be well conceived. Numbers of these, of all descriptions, having been employed by me ever since I came home (to render my situation comfortable the ensuing winter) has allowed me little leisure for other occupations.

Rural employments while I am spared (which in the natural course of things cannot be long) will now take place of toil, responsibility, and the sollicitudes attending the walks of public life; and with vows for the peace, the happiness, and prosperity of a country in whose service the prime of my life hath been spent, and with best wishes for the tranquillity of all Nations, and all men, the scene will close; grateful to that Providence which has directed my steps, and shielded me in the various changes and chances, through which I have passed, from my youth to the present moment.

I scarcely know what you alluded to in your letter of the 20th. of Feby. when you say "I observed in the Philadelphia

Papers, mention made of a publication of a volume of your epistles, domestic, confidential and official." unless it be the spurious letters which issued from a certain Press in New York during the War; with a view to destroy the confidence which the Army and Community might have had in my political principles; and which have lately been republished with greater avidity and perseverance than ever, by Mr. Bache, to answer the same nefarious purpose with the latter.

I suffered every attack that was made upon my Executive conduct (the one just mentioned among the rest) to pass unnoticed while I remained in public office; well knowing that if the general tenor of it would not stand the test of investigation, a Newspaper vindication would be of little avail. But as immense pains has been taken by this said Mr. Bache, who is no more than the Agent or tool of those who are endeavouring to destroy the confidence of the people in the officers of Government (chosen by themselves) to dissiminate these counterfeit letters, I conceived it a piece of justice due to my own character, and to Posterity to disavow them in explicit terms; and this I did in a letter directed to the Secretary of State to be filed in his Office the day on which I closed my Administration. This letter has since been published in the Gazettes by the head of that Department.

With respect to your own request, I can say nothing, so many things are continually given to the public of which I have no previous knowledge, nor time indeed to inspect them if I had been therewith informed, that I may mistake the meaning of it. The late Secretary of State (now Vice President) permitted a Mr. Carey,[31] my consent being first obtained, to take copies under his inspection of the letters I had written to Congress; which letters have since been published and are I presume

[31] John Carey.

genuine and must be those which you refer to. But as they are the work of another who is now in England on this business, I cannot suppose that you had it in contemplation to derive a benefit from his labours. I shall only add therefore that discretion in matters of this sort must be your guide, without a Yea, or nay, from me.

For Politics I shall refer you to the Gazettes of this country, with which I presume you are acquainted; and with respect to other matters, I have nothing wch would be entertaining, or worth narrating.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and Mrs. Gordon, and I am with esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favour, dated Elizabeth Town October, has been duly received. I am sorry that the state of your health should deprive me of the pleasure of your company at this place, and I regret still more that the pain you feel from the wounds you have received, though glorious for your reputation, is the occasion of it.

Whatever I can do as a private Citizen (and in no other capacity I can now act) consistently with the plan I have laid down for my future government, you may freely command. You will find however, contrary as it may be to your expectation or wishes, that all pecuniary matters must flow from the Legislature, and in a form which cannot be dispensed with. I may add I am Sure, that your claim upon the Justice and feelings of this country will meet with no delay; Nor do I suppose that the loss of your certificate will be any impediment.

Your rank and services in the American Army are too well known to require that testimony of your claim; and the Books of the Treasury will shew that you have received nothing in discharge of it, or if any part, to what amount. With the highest esteem, etc.[32] [N. Y. P. L.]

## *To JOHN LANGHORNE[33]

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1797.

Sir: Your favour of the 25th Ulto. has been received, but not so soon as might have been expected from the date of it.[34] For the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express relative to my conduct in public life, I thank you. For the divisions which have taken place among us, with respect to our political concerns; for the attacks which have been made upon those to whom the Administration of the government hath been entrusted *by the People;* and for the calumnies which are

[32] The original letter sent is in the Library of Prince Czartoryski, Krakow, Poland. Sparks prints this letter under date of Oct. 25, 1797.

[33] Of Warren, Albemarle County, Va.

[34] John Nicholas, of Charlottesville, wrote to Washington (November 18) concerning this Langhorne letter: "A few weeks ago a letter came to the Warren Post-Office in this County (Albemarle) from you, directed to *'Mr. Langhorne'*; where it lay some days, unclaimed and unsought for. Hearing it mentioned, I concluded it was intended for an old Gentn. of that name in an adjoining County, who, I believe had been ingaged, in some capaty. or another, in what was called Braddock's war; and had it taken up by a friend to be conveyed accordingly. To my great surprise however, I am just informed to-day that it had been sent for and demanded by a *certain character* in this County, closely connected with some of your greatest and bitterest enemies, as being intended for *him,* tho' his name was very different indeed from *Langhorne;* acknowledging at the same time that he had written to you a few weeks ago under that Signature . . . the singularity of the circumstances attending the demand of the letter, and the *quarter* from whence it came (altho' nothing to me from *that quarter* is now astonishing) determined me to address you. The only conclusion I can draw from this strange circumstance, is, that *certain men* who are resolved to stick at nothing to promote their wicked and inglorious views, have fallen on this last miserable deceptive means, among their other hypocritical practices to intrap you; or, that their suspicions of the views of others from a knowledge of the secrets of their own, had even carried them to the unjustifiable and scandelous lengths of violating the Seals of private correspondences, in hopes of finding out State secrets favourable to their schemes. Having positive proofs of the above facts, I determined to write you, and put you on your guard against such fictitious correspondts., if any such have

levelled at all those who are disposed to support the measures thereof, I feel, on public account, as much as any man can do; because (in my opinion) much evil, and no good can result from such conduct, to *this* country.

So far as these attacks are aimed at me, *personally,* it is, I can assure you, Sir, a misconception if it be supposed I feel the venom of the darts. Within me, I have a consolation which proves an antidote agt. their utmost malignity, rendering my mind in the retirement I have long panted after perfectly tranquil. I am, &c.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 16, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 2d instt. came duly to hand. For the perusal of the enclosure I thank you. It is returned.

---

written to you, or to show you what danger your *private* letters have to encounter, in *this quarter,* if you have had no such late corrispondent."

The real name of "John Langhorne" is not mentioned by Nicholas, or by Washington, in his reply, November 30, *post.*

Nicholas writes further: "I caution you against unbosoming yourself to such corrispondts. in this *part of the world,* whatever their *professions* or requests may be . . . living where I do, immediately in cannon shot of the very head-quarters of *Jacobinism;* knowing how much you have been deceived in the principles and *professions of friendship* of *certain characters* in *this quarter;* and my own knowledge of their *real dispositions;* have determined me thus to hint to you some things which I shall make known more fully when I have the honor of a personal interview." Nicholas's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

Nicholas again wrote to Washington (December 9): "Mr. *Langhorne,* if you know him not from his *real* name to that note, is a favorite nephew of your *very sincere friend* Mr. Jefferson, raised and educated directly by himself from a child, a constant dependent and resident in his house from that period almost to the present; and entertaining sentiments, I do assure you of my own personal knowledge, very different indeed towards *you* from those contained in his letter." This letter is in the *Washington Papers;* along with it is Nicholas's copy of the following note signed by Peter Carr, and addressed to Mr. John Scott, New Scotland. "I am informed there is a letter in your possession from General Washington to a Mr. Langhorne. I am the only person intitled to that letter, and have expected it for some time; but had began to fear from the delay, it had miscarried. Will thank you therefore to send it by the bearer." Nicholas has noted further: "Besides the above, Mr. C—— informed a respectable Gentleman, who first communicated this misterious business to me, that he had written to Genl. W—— under the name of John Langhorne."

We heard with much concern, but long after the thing had happened, of the accident which befel your son. We hope he is perfectly recovered from the fall, and you from your billious attack.

Having no news to entertain you with, and could only fill a letter with the perplexities I experience daily from workmen, and other occurrences of little moment to any besides myself, I shall conclude *this* letter with best respects, in which Mrs. Washington and Nelly Custis unite, to Mrs. McHenry and yourself, and with assurances of being etc.

PS. My mind during the last days of my remaining in Philadelphia was so much occupied with public and private concerns that I always forgot, when I was in your company, to enquire whether Mr. Lear had accounted to the War Office for the money he had received to purchase the Site for the Arsenal on Potomac. As I was, in some measure, the cause of his Agency in that business, I wish to know whether it is settled to your Satisfaction.

Be so good as to send the letter to Mr. Dandridge to his lodgings if he has not Sailed, or left the City.[35]

## *To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, Otober 24, 1797.

Dear Sir: You ask what is absolutely out of my power to comply with, unless I was to place myself exactly in the situation you represent yourself to be (without converting Bank stock into Cash, which I am not inclined to do), that is, unprepared to face my own engagements; which, for Wheat, Rye, Workmen's wages &ca. &ca. are hourly coming upon me, and expected. Three thousand dollars (without going into a

[35] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

correct examination of the Accts.) is more than I have in the Bank of Alexandria, and (for running calls) in my Desk.

Had you asked for a thousand dollars of these, or if that sum would answer any valuable purpose I would, inconvenient as it might prove to me, Give a check on the Bank. Your letter being just presented, company here, and dinner ready, I can only add that I am Yr. etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To ——— BARRY

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1797.

Sir: Since you left this, yesterday I have conversed with my Manager on the subject of flour, according to your desire.

The result is, that on Tuesday next, provided immediate notice is given, he could have fifty barrels of Superfine at Alexandria. It would however, employed as my Boats are in getting materials together for my Distellery, be vastly more convenient for me to deliver it to a Vessel at my Mill.

If you take the above mentioned flour I shall expect eight dollars and a half per barrel for it. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To ROBERT BROOKE

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1797.

Sir: The enclosed letter from Mr. Brooke your brother, to Mr. Anderson my Manager (who were acquainted) is the best apology I can offer for giving you the trouble of receiving one from me.

It is the wish of Mrs. Washington that Mrs. Forbes would, without delay, repair to this place with her clothes &ca; where (if she has been an acceptable and competent house keeper to you, while you filled the Chair of Government of this State) there can be little doubt of her answering our purposes and will

be retained on the terms mentioned in my Advertisement, which was inserted in a Richmond Paper.

If Mrs. Forbes comes in the Stage, which I presume will be the case, she might stop at the Widow Lund Washington's (close on the Road between Colchester and Alexandria) who will either send her hither, or let us know that she is there.[36]

A previous knowledge of the characters, one has to do with, being of some importance, you would do me a favour in giving (and it might be confidentially if you prefer it) that of Mrs. Forbes. Besides care; and A knowledge of the duties of the Station one who will *see* to the execution, as well as direct the measures of the Servants is indispensable in my family. One too who has spirit to enforce her orders, in doing which she will have every proper support.

I pray you to excuse the liberty I have taken in making this request. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 30, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favors of the 30th of August and 8th. of September have remained unacknowledged, because I had nothing to communicate that could compensate for the loss of a moment of your time, which I know is too much occupied in matters of business to be interrupted by unimportant letters.

Having received the enclosed letter by the Ganges, in the twilight, and attending to the first part of the Superscription only, I broke the Seal before I discovered that it was of a public nature. And the direction of the Spanish letter being somewhat equivocal, I send it also, as well for that reason as because I could not read it after it was opened; both to be disposed as you shall see fit.

[36] Mrs. Forbes arrived at Mount Vernon, Dec. 6, 1797.

I thank you for sending me your answer to the very improper letter of Mr. de Yrujo,[37] who merited less respectful treatment. The Copying Press came safe, but does not work well; whether for want of more Springs I am unable to determine. Having a small one (which used to be getting out of order frequently, but at present does tolerably well) I do not use it at all. Should the small one fail, I will send you the other, and ask you to have its defects rectified.

From the last Philadelphia Reports respecting the Yellow fever, it is to be hoped that that dreadful malady has ceased, and the distressed Inhabitant are returning to their long forsaken homes. I wish it devoutly, on public as well as private considerations, for an equivocal state of that disorder would place the President in an embarrassing situation. With great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 30, 1797.

My dear Sir: Your several letters, opinion and copy of the deed to Williams for 589 Acres of Land have been duly received and for which I offer my best thanks.

It is a little singular that the proceedings for Docking the Intail of the above mentioned Land should not be found among the Records of the Genl. Court or in the Secretary's office from whence it issued and to which it was most assuredly returned.

As the Intail of this Land was docked on account of my purchase of a part of it I retained a Copy of the writ the Pannel and Sheriffs return, from whence the enclosed is taken and is the best Information and clue it is in my power to give to direct a further search. With Affece. regard etc.[38]

[37] Carlos Martinez, Marquis de Casa Yrujo. He was Spanish Minister to the United States.

[38] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## *To JACOB VALENTINE[39]

Mount Vernon, October 30, 1797.

Sir: Your letter of the 21st instt. has been duly received, but ignorant as I am of the motive which has induced you to send me an extract of the Law of 1780 relative to recruits, for the Army, I know not what reply to make.

Matters of that sort, I never had anything to do with, as Commander in Chief of the American Army; and never having speculated in any Soldiers certificate, or Rights of any kind or nature whatsoever, I am, perhaps as little competent to give an opinion thereon (if I understood your meaning) as any man in the United States. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, November 1, 1797.

Dear Sir: I feel myself much obliged by your kind attention to my want of a Household Steward; but hearing of an excellent Housekeeper that had lived with Mr. R. Brooke whilst he was Governor of this State, she has been applied to for a similar purpose in this family, and we have reason to expect her, every day. Should this happen I shall have no occasion for a Steward. Indeed the two would be incompatible, and lay foundation for wrangling which might prove the loss perhaps of both, and to employ Rawlings[40] as a Butler, merely, if he was ever so clever and competent at the business, would be too expensive.

I pray you to accept my thanks for the pains, and trouble you have had in this business; and be assured of the sincere regard etc.

[39] Formerly a captain in the First Virginia State regiment during the Revolutionary War.

[40] Albin Rawlins(?).

P. S. Did you think to examine the Records while in Richmond to see if there was any foundation for Thompson's (I think was the name) his claim to my Kentucky Land?

The family here, all unite in offering their affectns. to Mrs. Spotswood and yr. family.[41]

## *To DANIEL McCARTY

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1797.

Sir: I shall preface this letter in answer to yours of yesterday, with a declaration as sincere as it is solemn, and that is, that if it was in my power, I would take no advantage of you in the proposed exchange of Lands; nor would I wish you to make a bargain with me that either you yourself, or your friends (such I mean as are competent judges) should hereafter say was disadvantageous on your part: for be assured, I should derive no pleasure from a contract of which you might have just cause to complain.

Having made this declaration, it remains to be added, that both of us may err in the comparative value of our respective lands. You, perhaps, preceded upon what you conceive to be the present selling price of such lands as yours are, in this country; which, abstractedly is fair; but if I mistake not, Lands here are not only at a stand, but on the decline; while on the other hand, I go on a thorough conviction in my own mind, that such as I offer in exchange and which in some instances *I know,* and in all believe, are of the first rate, will increase. I form this opinion from analogous circumstances; for since I have been an Actor for myself, Frederick and Berkeley Counties were deemed much more remote, and in fact out of the inhabited world, than the Kanhawa is now: and lands which I then

[41] From a transcript of the original in the National Library of Scotland at Edinburg.

bought in the former at five pounds per hundred acres, and the highest (on account of small improvements) at twenty five pounds per hundd. I could now sell, very readily at five pounds *an acre*. But this is digressing from the point, and I will return to it again, after making one more observation which in my opinion, is literally true and important, namely, that it is not the number of acres you receive in exchange for your land, that is to render that exchange valuable, there are a great many local considerations which must contribute to this. I aver, most seriously, that I wd. not give my tract of 10,990 acres on the Kanhawa for 50,000 acres back of it, and adjoining thereto, nor for any 50,000 acres of the common land of the country, which I have seen, back from the water, and in one body. And I have no doubts but that the land immediately back of mine, might *now* be bought for half a dollar or less pr. acre which, and on acct. of the extensive range that cannot for a series of years be interrupted, renders these bottoms so extremely valuable.

In offering you three of my tracts on the Kanhawa, containing together 12,276 acres for your Maryland tracts *entire;* I conceived I was by no means deficient in proposing an equivalent, especially, as these three tracts would have given you a boundary on the Rivers of near 25 miles of the richest low ground in that Ctry.

It is true and so I informed you, that I had never been on either of these tracts, and have only the Surveyors report, and other information on which to form my opinion of the quality of the Land. They may be less, or they may be more valuable than the lower tract for ought I know to the contrary. Two reasons however, induced me to reserve the latter. 1st. a knowledge of the tract from my *own* inspection of it, and 2dly because *it was the lowest* on that River, and not more than 3 miles from Mount Pleasant. A Place which must, as soon as

tranquillity is perfectly restored, be of considerable importance from its situation at the junction of two extensive Rivers running in different directions through so large and fertile a tract of country.

This letter is written more with a view to exculpate myself from any suspicion which might arise of my not meaning to offer you an equivalent for your land, than from any expectation I entertain of our coming to a bargain; for it can hardly be supposed that I would allow the whole of my lands to be picked, whilst the most valuable part of yours (or your sons) is reserved. If however, upon reconsidering the matter you should be disposed to let the Island go with, and become part of the exchanged Lands, I will, on my part (as you have expressed a wish to make an exchange) consent to part with my lower tract on the Kanhawa also; and if there is any likelihood of our agreeing on a just proportion of quantity, and value of my land for yours, I would, on some early day which you may name (before the weather gets cold) ride up with you and your son (for I shd. like that he should be perfectly satisfied before hand, with whatever is done) and look at your Loudoun Lands; having at present not the least knowledge of the quality of them, neither from Investigation or information; and because, which I frankly declare to you previously that it is not a trifling consideration that will induce me to part with my lower tract on the Kanhawa with the situation, local advantages utility and value of which I have formed an opinion, not from information, but from my own accurate view; having been on it three or four days [illegible] of the bottom.

Your answer to this letter will at once decide whether there be any prospect of our bargaining, or not; and I should thank you for giving it to me as soon as it is convenient. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

## To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 26th Ulto. has been received. To Mr. T. Whiting for presenting and to you for forwarding the orchard grass seeds, I feel myself obliged and request you to mention it to him accordingly.

I approve of your placing a Tenant on my small Tract of Land above Bath at a moderate Rent for the purpose of preserving the Timber thereon: and if decisive proof could be had of the Trespasses I think suit should be brought against them in the *District Court* by way of terror to others. In *this Court* if the proof was positive justice might be expected, in the County Court I should expect nothing but to pay the Cost of the suit. I would not let the land for more than 5 *years,* limit the quantity of ground to be cleared and reserve all the walnut Timber for my use which may stand thereon.

The other depredations mentioned in your letter will not I hope escape unpunished. Remember us to Mrs. Lewis and be assured of the friendship of Your etc.[42]

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1797.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th ult. was received by the last Post.

Your Aunts distresses for want of a good housekeeper are such as to render the wages demanded by Mrs. Forbes (though unusually high) of no consideration; and we must, though very reluctantly, yield to the time she requires to prepare for her fixture here. We wish however that it might be shortned.

[42] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

If you are in habits of free communication with Mr. Brooke or with others who had opportunities of judging competently of the qualifications and conduct of Mrs. Forbes as a housekeeper, I would thank you for ascertaining and giving it to me in as precise a manner as you can obtain it. Among other things it wd. be satisfactory to know.

What country woman she is?

Whether Widow or Wife? if the latter

Where her husband is?

What family she has?

What her age is?

Of what temper?

Whether active and spirited in the execution of her business?

Whether sober and honest?

Whether much knowledge in Cookery, and understands ordering and setting out a Table?

What her appearance is?

With other matters which may occur to you to ask, and necessary for me to know.

Mrs. Forbes will have a warm, decent and comfortable room to herself, to lodge in; and will eat of the Victuals from our Table, but not set at it, at any time *with us,* be her appearance what it may; for if this was *once admitted,* no line satisfactory to either party, perhaps, could be drawn thereafter. It might be well for me to know however whether this was admitted at Govr. Brookes, or not.

Is it practicable do you think to get a good and well disposed Negro Cook on hire, or purchase? Mention this want of ours to Mrs. Forbes. She, from the interest she would have therein might make enquiry. Yours always and Affectionately.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing Mrs. L. Washington informs me that Mr. Swan is anxious to learn from the Returns,

or Records in the General Court. or from the best information you can obtain, whether it has been the invariable practice to Survey the Land Docked by a writ of Ad quod damnum; whether it has been frequently dispensed with, and what has been the consequence. Let me thank you for making this enquiry and furnishing me with the result of it.[43]

## *To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1797.

Sir: Your favours of the 21st of June and 3d of August last have both been received and are entitled to my best acknowledgments and thanks.

The last was presented by William Spence, who arrived here the 27th. Ulto via New York, in very good health and in very good time, my old Gardener having left me, as I wished it might happen, about a fortnight before.

For the prompt attention you paid to this business I feel myself under very great obligation; and shall strictly fulfil the engagement you have entered into on my behalf with Spence; who, though rather younger than I should have chosen (if time and circumstances had admitted of a choice) seems to be decent in his appearance, and as far as time and opportunity have hitherto allowed me to form an opinion is orderly in his conduct. Experience must decide on his skill as a Gardener. He speaks of this confidently, and goes to work handily, as one who knew what is to be done. He has deceived you or me however, with his tale of Matrimony; for he has brought no wife with him, and says it was *a promise only,* of marriage from the Girl you saw; which, ultimately, she would not com-

[43] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

ply with. I am well satisfied as matters are, and perfectly approve, and thank you for every step you have taken in this business.

This letter will, I expect, find you in your new abode and if my best wishes could contribute any thing to the happiness you must enjoy in the circle of an amiable family, I offer them to you with the utmost sincerity. The circumstance attending it, as related by yourself are not only singular, but from the independence with which it is accompanied, must be the source of pleasing reflections to you, rare indeed is the case, in countries composed, in great parts, of such numerous fleets and armies, as is that of G. Britain, that neither the father or any of a numerous off spring should be engaged in either, and be under no other controul than the Laws of the Country: When to this, the reflection, that all parts of it are in competent circumstances and happy, it must be highly gratifying to your feelings. A situation of this sort is free from cares and more to be envied than wealth or honours by a rational mind.

Free as I now am from the toil, the cares and responsibility of public occupations and engaged in rural and Agricultural pursuits; I hope aided by the reflection of having contributed my best endeavours to promote the happiness and welfare of that Country which gave me, and my Ancestors birth, to glide peaceably and easily on in the shade of retirement; and with good will to all men until my time shall be no more. In doing this I promise myself more real enjoyment than in all the bustling with which I have been occupied for upwards of 40 years of my life which as the wise man says, is little more than vanity and vexation.

I shall thank you for any information you can give me of the prospect of disposing of the Lands I had advertised for *sale,* and to be *let* but would have no engagements entered into

respecting them as overtures are making to me in this Country for part of them in both relations.

I pray you to accept my thanks for the addition to the two first volumes of your Essays on Agricultural Subjects and to be perfectly assured of the high Esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, November 6, 1797.

Dear Sir: Since writing to you a few days ago, I have been favoured with your letters of the 26th. and 30th. Ulto.

If you should have occasion to write to Mr. Parish [44] of Hamburg, you would oblige me, by thanking him in my behalf, for his very polite and friendly offer of sending me any thing I might have occasion for from that place.

It would be more formal than necessary, to introduce Mr. Bucknall's Orchardist to the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia otherwise than through you. If then you will be so good as to relate the manner in which it came, and present it with my best respects to that body, I will thank you. With very great esteem and regard I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Mount Vernon, November 6, 1797.

Sir: Since I had the honor of writing you on the 15th of July, I have been favoured with your letter of the 13th of Feby. introductory of Thos. Macdonald Esqr. and your note of the 9th of June by Genl. Koscuisko; together with the Surveys, and papers accompanying both. For your goodness in sending them, I pray you to accept my best thanks, and that I may not be a

[44] John Parish, formerly United States Consul at Hamburg, Germany.

burthensome member of the Board, I enclose a small Bill of Exchange to be deposited in the hands of your Bookseller to defray the cost of the several copies of your works which may be forwarded to me. When this is expended, I will make another deposit for the same purpose.

As neither of the notes, the receipt of which is acknowledged above, nor any other, has intimated in the most distant manner that my letters of the 10th and 11th of December (the latter a private one) had ever reached your hand, I now do, as well for the purpose of evincing that I was not inattentive to your request, as to give information which may yet (though late) be useful, forward a duplicate of the private letter from a Press copy taken at the time, and of my last also, of the 15th. of July; being more disposed to trouble you with a repetition of the sentiments then expressed than to lay under the suspicion of inattention to yr. commds.

I can now, with more certainty than on the 15th. of July, inform you that lands have fallen in price; ascribable to two causes, the shocking depredations committed on our Commerce (within the last Six or eight months by the French) and the reduction in price of our produce. Both contributing to render Cash a scarce, and of course a valuable article.

Our Crops of Grain are, in places, tolerable, but upon the whole below mediocrity in quantity, whilst the grain is fine. This also, that is the shortness of the Crop, will assist in reducing the price of lands still lower.

An eight years absence from home (except occasional short visits to it) has thrown my buildings, and other matters of private concern, into so much disorder, that at no period of my life have I ever been more engaged than in the last six or eight months to repair and bring them into tune again. This has prevented me from looking into the Agricultural Surveys of the

Countries of England and Scotland with the attention I propose to do the ensuing Winter I shall certainly be very desirous of having a compleat sett of them, and if any are missing will apply accordingly; as it is my intention to have them classed, and bound, Neatly. With great pleasure I receivd a visit from Mr. Macdonald a few days ago, who fully answers the character given of him, as a polite and sensible man.

With great respect, etc.[45]

## *To JAMES ROSS

Mount Vernon, November 6,[46] 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 2d. Ulto. with its enclosure came duly to hand, and I feel myself very much obliged by the favourable footing on which you have placed matters with Colo. Shreve. These are perfectly satisfactory to me, and of which I should have informed you sooner, had I not supposed that the most certain though perhaps not the quickest way of making it known to you would be to lodge my letter in Philadelphia against your arrival there. This I am about to do in the hands of Colo. Pickering.

Whatever mode, under the derangements occasioned by the sore calamity which has afflicted that City, you shall find most convenient to yourself, will be agreeable to me, for depositing the sum in the Bank of Pennsylvania which has been paid you by Colo. Shreve on my acct. but it may not be amiss to add that, if $500 have been paid into that Bank for my use, no advice of it has been given to me.

I am perfectly convinced that your observations and opinion with respect to the most advantageous mode, to wit, laying off

[45] From the traced facsimile in *Letters on Agriculture from . . . George Washington . . . to Arthur Young and Sir John Sinclair* (Philadelphia: 1847).

[46] The "Letter Book" copy is dated November 3.

my lands on the Ohio into lots of about 200 Acres is correct; and the best way to make the most of them. The reasons which have weighed against it hitherto, with me, are first it is troublesome, 2d. may be tedious in its operation, and 3d. my object being to convert the Land, aggragately into money, or some kind of Stock that I might derive a convenience and benefit from the interest during the short stay which from the natural course of things I have to remain here, the end would not be answered in a retail way without, in a manner, sinking the Capitol, receiving money in driblets is tentamount. But as you have been so good as to mention this mode, will you permit me to ask what you think the lands would sell for by the Acre, divided in the manner you suggest; and whether there is within your view, any person in whom confidence could be placed as an Agent to manage this business, who has leisure and inclination to undertake it, for an adequate compensation?

I wish you an agreeable Session, and perfect unanimity in all great questions which involve the dignity, honor and interest of our Country. With very sincere esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, November 10, 1797.

Dear Sir: I have received both of your letters dated yesterday; and thank you for the information given in them.

If Mr. Liston's[47] arrangement to proceed from Alexandria to this place[48] by Water appeared *to you* to proceed from the want of Carriages (for I do not know in what manner he got to the City) say to him, that you are sure mine would attend upon him at any hour he wd. name at that place, to bring as many of

[47] Robert Liston, Minister from Great Britain to the United States.
[48] Liston visited Mount Vernon, Nov. 13–16, 1797.

them as it would contain to Mt. Vernn. This however, as the presumption is that I am unacquainted with his intentions and movements must go as from yourself. Yours always and Affectionately. [H.L.]

## *To GEORGE LEWIS

Mount Vernon, November 13, 1797.

Dear Sir: The running off of my Cook, has been a most inconvenient thing to this family; and what renders it more disagreeable, is, that I had resolved never to become the Master of another Slave by *purchase*; but this resolution I fear I must break.

I have endeavoured to hire, black or white, but am not yet supplied. A few days ago, having occasion to write to Mr. Bushrod Washington on other matters, I asked if one could be had in Richmond; the following is his answer.

Mr. Brooke (late Governor) informs me that he had a very excellent Cook, with no other fault than a fondness for liquor (which a town afforded him too many opportunities of indulging) who is now in Fredericksburg, and is to be sold. I shall write to the Gentleman who has him, not to sell him till he hears from you. Should you, *under this character,* wish to buy, or hire him, please address a letter to Mr. George Murray of that place. He cooked for Mr. Brooke while he was in the Government.

Let me ask you now, to see both Mr. Murray, and the man himself; and if upon conversing fully with the latter, you should be of opinion (from the account he gives of himself) that he is a good Cook, and would answer my purposes, then discover the *lowest terms* on which he could be had by purchase, or on hire; and inform me of the result by the first Post to wch. an answer shall be immediately given.

I should like to know the age, and as far as you are enabled to ascertain it, the temper and looks of the man described.

Whether he has a wife, and expects to have her along with him; and in that case, what children they have; with *her* age and occupation. By the time I can receive an answer from you, I expect Mrs. Forbes, who was Govr. Brooke's housekeeper, will be here as my housekeeper; and from her own knowledge of the person, and your account I shall be enabled to determine what answer to give. Our loves to Mrs. Lewis &ca. I am, etc.[49]

## *To DANIEL McCARTY

Mount Vernon, November 13, 1797.

Sir: Presuming from the tenor of your last letter, that there is no great probability of our meeting in the proposed exchange of lands, unless the difficulties which have occurred can be overcome; I should not have given you the trouble of receiving another letter from me on this subject had it none [*sic*] been from an expectation that those who have applied to know the terms on which I would dispose of my western lands (and required time to view them) might come forward again; and also, how far it might be advisable for me to listen to a proposition of an intelligent gentleman at Pittsburgh Mr. Ross, one of the Senators for the State of Pennsylvania in Congress, to lay these lands off into lots of Two or three hundred acres each, for the purpose of accomodating smaller purchasers; assuring me, that by doing so, he was convinced from the applications which had been made to him (on the supposition that he was empowered to sell those lands as he had before done wha [*sic*] I held in the State of Pennsylvania) that they might be disposed of to advan[tage]. I say, were it not for the desire of ascertaining previously to the adoption of a measure of this sort, or making any other disposition of the lands on the Kanhawa

[49] The original is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

whether there be any prospect of our agreeing in an exchange, I should not have mentioned the subject again; for though I might, ultimately, derive profit from the adoption of Mr. Ross' plan, yet, it would be accomplishing by retail, what I am more inclined to do by wholesale; especially as expence, trouble and time would attend it; neither of which, at my time of life, am I disposed to encounter.

Two things seem to be obstacles in the way of our bargaining, viz, the quantity, or proportion of Western for Eastern land, and the Island appertaining to your Sugarland tract. I know the value of my own lands, or perhaps it would be more correct in me to say, I know the quality of them, or some of them, from my own actual view, but, as I have mentioned to you in a former letter, I am entirely unacquainted with the quality of yours; never having been on any part of the Sugarland tract except at a ford of the Potomack, and having had no inducement until now, I never made the least enquiry respecting it.

It was for this reason I proposed in my last letter, to view it, for if on examination it should appear more valuable than I had conceived it to be; or in other words, if I could see an equivalent, in receiving one acre, for these, a recent instance considered, I can assure you I should have stickled for no more, for I should feel no pleasure in any bargain that was not mutually satisfactory.

As you have taken no notice in your last, of the Island (proposed in the former letter to be reserved) I am more at a loss what . . .[50] the one I have been discussing; but as I am desirous of knowing for the reasons wch. have been assigned, whether there is any likelihood of . . . I would . . . an expedient, . . . to obtain . . . a separate sale of the Sugarland Island.

[50] The press copy is badly mutilated. The words indicated by leaders [ . . . ] are illegible.

You are . . ., I am persuaded . . . Cash is; and too distressed . . . one end to the other of it, from whom our money is drawn) are. It is such as to have contained a considerable reduction in the price of produce, and almost a total stagnation in the price of real property, at this time. if this difficulty could be . . . would, I conceive find another of greater magnitude; and that is no purchaser who would advance money on so precarious a footing as the . . . of your Son; . . . connected with other matters as to render it . . . .

The expedient . . . to . . . that the equivalent he wd. receive from it, with the improvements and encreasing value of the land, by the time he comes of age would furnish you, if there should be any hesitation on his part hereafter, with the strongest arguments to induce him to unite in fulfilling the contract, and carrying it into complete effect. In this way I conceive the purposes of all the parties may be answered, and their interests secured; but as I am no professional man, it would be proper if *we* should agree to consult one of acknowledged abilities who is, and this I certainly should do, that proper and effectual instruments might be drawn conformative to the true intent and meaning of the parties.

When I look back and see to what length I have extendd. this letter, I am surprised at it myself, but as the intention of it is to bring matters to an issue I shall hope for an excuse. You will now be enabled from this communication of my sentimts. to decide whether any end could be answered by my taking a view of your Sugar land tract, or whether another personal interview If we should proceed so far towards a bargain as to render it necessary for me to view your Sugarland tract, and I should, on that inspection of it, agree to give three acres for one for the whole tract, I will, in nine months from this date, advance you for the purpose you have mentioned, to be secured

by a Mortgage of the land on which you live, the sum of three or four thousand dollars. This would answer all the purposes of a seperate sale of the Island, and much better than one under disadvantageous circumstances; for to my certain knowledge, real property has lately been offered for half what it cost a year or two ago, and could not command cash on these terms. I can, I believe, with absolute certainty promise to advance this sum in the time I have mentioned, because the sales of my Pennsylvania land by Mr. Ross insures a larger payment on the first of June next and ... to render a disappointment almost impossible.

It may be asked why if I get the Island in exchange, do I require a mortgage of the land on which you live? The reasons are obvious, first, in the exchange you wd. receive an equivalent for that Island; 2d. because your son can give no security for the money loaned for his use; and 3d. because it is a maxim with me, to take landed security which from its nature is unchangeable, to personal security which is subject to numberless vissitudes.

In all this business I have endeavoured to deal fairly, openly and candidly, and shall continue to do so, as a proof of it, I shall repeat what I mentioned in a former letter, with my reasons for it; namely, that entire and absolute possession shall be reciprocally given, and the free use and profits of the lands to be enjoyed by the possessors of it; the circumstance of the leases I would yield to. But the legal titles, ... must remain as they are, until your son conveys his interest in the Sugarland tract for this is the only security I should have for the performance of the contract, or for indemnification if it is not at ...[51]

[N.Y.P.L.]

[51] The press copy is indorsed by Washington: "This letter was never sent. Delay, for consideration first, and then other disposition of the land therein mentioned, finally withheld it."

## *To FITZGERALD, HERBERT, AND GILPIN[52]

Mount Vernon, November 22, 1797.

Gentlemen: On Monday last, in Alexandria, Colo. Marstellar[53] applied to me to rent my lot with the house on it in that place for three years, from the expiration of the year for wch it is now engaged (at Sixty pounds until Feby.).

I answered, that I was well disposed to receive him as a tenant and for the term above mentioned, but was unable to fix the rent then; being unacquainted with such as were usual in Alexandria, or might be expected within that period, but that I would leave it to you three Gentlemen, or any two of you who should agree, to say what it should be. And moreover to enumerate what repairs it would be indispensibly necessary for me to make *again,* it not being long the houses and inclosure were put into complete Order.

Your compliance with the request will very much oblige me, and I shall hope to be excused for the trouble it will give you. Be assured of the esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, November 22, 1797.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 13th Inst. has been duly received, as I believe all your others have. The order for settling my Acct. as Exor. of Colvill was immediately sent to Mr. Keith who asks as

The order of Court must be published for a month in the Alexandria Gazette, and the time fixed upon for auditing the accounts made known at the foot of the order, a copy of the order served upon Mr. West, with

[52] John Fitzgerald, William Herbert, and George Gilpin.
[53] Philip Marsteller.

a notification for the time for the review of the accounts, and as the defendants live out of the Country, a considerable length of time may be necessary to allow for entering upon the business, I could wish to be made acquainted with what you suppose to be a reasonable time before I determine any thing respecting it.

As this business has been entered upon in consequence of your advice be so good as to let me know what answer to give Mr. Keith.

We have heard nothing more of Mrs. Forbes. If it shou'd fall in your way, without formality, I should be glad if you wou'd ask Mr. Robt. Brooke if he did not receive a letter from me in Octr. on this Subject? If he did, and I see not how it shou'd be otherwise, his conduct towards me has been very ungenteel, such as I would not have meeted to him or any other.

The first knowledge we had of Mrs. Forbes was communicated by his Brother Mr. Jno. Brooke to Mr. Anderson my manager who being at Fredericksburg and expressing our want of a house keeper, the former strongly recommended Mrs. Forbes; and promised to ascertain whether she would come or not. upon a second application (by letter) from Mr. Anderson, Mr. Jno. Brooke wrote him that *he* had written two or three times to Richmond on this business but had recd. no answer. A few days afterward however he wrote again that Mrs. Forbes was willing to come for $150 pr Annum, and was desirous to know soon, if she wd. be accepted on those terms; advising in the same letter to avoid delay and accidents, that the answer might pass to *her* through his brother *Robert*. The first post after the receipt of this letter, viz, on the 27th Octr. I wrote to the latter enclosing this letter as an apology for giving him that trouble) requesting as a *favor* that he wou'd let Mrs. Forbes know that I acceeded to her terms, and wished her to proceed immediately to this place and that he would be so good as to give me some item of her character.

Since which I have never received a line from him and presume (if I had not as much by accident as by a premeditated design) brought the matter to your View I might (if the Case is not jepordized now) have been defeated altogether in obtaining the above person as a house keeper. If any miscarriage attended my letter the thoughts I entertain of Mr. Robert Brooke are unfounded if he recd. it they will mark him pretty strongly in my estimation. Remember us kindly to Mrs. Washington, and be assured always of the friendship of Your etc.[54]

## *To PHILIP MARSTELLER

Mount Vernon, November 22, 1797.

Sir: The enclosed result, from our conversation on Monday last. It is left open for your perusal and presentation, and I shall consider the decision of the Gentlemen to whom it is addressed, as obligatory on me.

As no time ought to be lost in securing the stone work of the Stable, I now authorise you, to get it effectually done upon the best terms you can, without awaiting for their report, and without delay, to avoid accidents, and a greater expence. With esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1797.

Mr. Anderson: I have given the scheme which you put into my hands for renting some of my land on the Great Kanhawa, such consideration as time and circumstances would permit.

What follows is the result.

To require such a rent, and to make it progressive to a certain period as is digested in your plan of a Rental in a country

[54] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

abounding in unsettled Lands which are open to every purchaser on a more moderate scale than I have affixed to my tract of 11,000 acres might, even to some among ourselves (not particularly acquainted with the situation and superior quality of the soil) seem high, and to foreigners, it might have the appearance of an intention to impose. But when it is considered that the above tract, and others which I hold in the Western Country (on the Rivers Ohio and Great Kenhawa) are all intervale or meadow lands upon the Banks of those rivers, in a word that they are the cream of the lands being the first choice of them near 30 years ago; that I have been offered for part thereof less valuable in my estimation than the tract which is the subject of your scheme eight dollars an acre, and that I hold the latter at ten dollars, it must be acknowledged that to let it for less than you have proposed would not comport with my interest; nor be equivalent to the interest of the purchase money at eight dollars an Acre disposed of in the public funds.

I am, however, disposed to make an experiment with the 11,000 Acre tract on the Rent, and in the manner you have proposed; provided a number of respectable men, competent to the fulfilment of an agreement would Associate, take the whole tract, and form a settlement thereon *at once;* for a piece meal business would neither accord with my interest, or inclination. But it is to be clearly understood, that I do not mean by this declaration, to be restrained from accepting, before the result of the communication to your correspondent is known any offer I may approve for the above mentioned tract as many are in pursuit of it. and that res [*sic*] uncertain.

But if such an Association could be formed, on your plan, for the aforesaid tract of 11,000 acres, and advice thereof be immediately given, I would then if it was in my possession and under no engagement hold it thereafter for them, or, which

would perhaps be more desirable, let a member of their body come over, view the land, and if approved, conclude the bargain on their behalf. This latter expedient, would prevent all suspicion of the land being too favourably represented, at the sametime that it would afford such an Agent an opportunity of examining other matters and making a more advantageous establishment elsewhere, for I should receive no satisfaction from any contract that was not mutually satisfactory.

The usual way of going to these Lands, as well those on the Great Kanhawa as to those on the Ohio, is by Fort Cumberland and Pittsburgh, and thence down the Ohio River; the distance being, by that route to the mouth of the Kanhawa about 560 miles, but of this 75 only is land transportation. The other route by Greenbrier and Kanhawa Court house to the same place, is a third shorter; and 80 miles of it water carriage, the other part is, as I am informed, a good waggon road. I wish you well, and am etc.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1797.

Dear Sir: I have lately received a letter from a Mr. Small of Philadelphia, informing me that the Coach I used in the City, was yet unsold; that it was accumulating expence; and not more than two hundred dollars had been offered for it; when, according to his acct. $300 was the value fixed thereon.

I intended to have sent his letter to you, but it has been mislaid, or lost. I shall beg the favour of you, however, to sell, or cause it to be sold, for whatever it will fetch. Who limited the price to $300 I know not, but took it for granted that it had been disposed of many days ago. Receive, and place the proceeds to the credit of Dear Sir Your etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To RICHARD PARKINSON

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1797.

Sir: Your letter dated "Doncaster August 28th. 1797" has been received.

In answer thereto, I inform you, that *I had* engaged my largest farm to Gentleman in the vicinity of it for the ensuing year (on the terms mentioned in the plan I took the liberty of transmitting to Sir John Sinclair, and which, having seen as you say, it is unnecessary for me to detail) but some circumstances afterwards occurring, unforseen at the time, induced a postponement of the measure until the year 1799, when it may, or may not, as I shall find it most convenient, be renewed.

The other farms are entirely free, and must remain in my possession until the crops of 1798 (the greater part of which being in the ground) are harvested. Of course, if you should come to this country in March next, shall then like any of my farms, and we should be mutually disposed to bargain for one of them, *on lease,* it is not probable there will be any impediment in the way. In the meantime, you may be assured that it would be highly satisfactory to me, to have English, or Scotch farmers who are able and willing, and who can be well recommended to me, to be the Cultivators of the farms of my Mount Vernon estate.

I not only approve of your circumspect conduct in viewing the farms previous to engagement, but can assure you that I should be unwilling to enter into any contract with any person for either of them *before it was done* as no agreement would be pleasing to me that did not give mutual satisfaction.

I thank you for your kind intention of sending me your treatise on Agriculture, entitled, "the practical farmer" and will chearfully pay the cost of it. I am etc.

## To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1797.

Sir: The Copy of Mr. Parkinson's letter and my answer both of which are enclosed for your perusal and the latter to be forwarded is the best apology I can offer for giving you the Trouble of this Address.

As he has taken the liberty of naming you as a Gentleman to whom he is well known I have followed his example (as he writes to me on an interesting Subject) in doing the same to enquire if he shou'd make the Application in person which his letter contemplates, whether his character, abilities as a farmer and capital are such as to enable him to stock and manage a farm the rent of which would be (according to his choice of those I have to let) from a thousand to eighteen hundred Dollars per annum, or wheat equivalent.

I should not my good Sir have used the freedom to ask this information had not Mr. Parkinson declared that it was by your advice he has made the Application and means to pursue it in March next. If he comes under such auspices it would recommend him strongly to me; and to know it in time wou'd be pleasing to Your etc.[55]

## *To JOHN NICHOLAS[56]

Mount Vernon, November 30, 1797.

Sir: I know not how to thank you sufficiently, for the kind intention of your obliging favour of the 18th. instant. If the object of Mr. Langhorne, who to me, in person and character, is an entire stranger, was such as you suspect, it will appear from

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[56] Clerk of Albemarle County court.

my answer to his letter[57] that he fell far short of his mark. But as the writer of it seems to be better known to you, and that you may be the better enabled to form a more correct opinion of the design, I take the liberty of transmitting a copy of it along with the answer. If they should be a mean of detecting any nefarious plan of those who are assailing the government in every shape that can be devised I shall feel happy in having had it in my power to furnish them. If the case be otherwise, the papers may be committed to the flames, and the transaction buried in oblivion. To confess the truth, I denominated Mr. Langhorne in my "minds eye" a pedant, who was desirous of displaying the flowers of his pen. In either case, I wd. thank you for the result of the investigation.

In your journey to Philadelphia or at any other time, or upon any occasion, I should be happy to see you at this place; having had a very high regard for your father[58] while living, and a long acquaintance with him in public life as members of the Legislature of this State. With very great esteem etc.

## *To JAMES WELCH

Mount Vernon, December 1, 1797.

Sir: Your proposition to Lease my several tracts of Land on the Great Kanhawa, containing by the Patent 23216 acres, being handed to me by Mr. James Cooper while I had company, and was just going to dinner allowed me scarcely time to make a few hasty remarks then; nor am I much better enabled now I have considered them, to answer your propl. first, because I do not understand the principle upon which you have established the rents; 2dly because I am not inclined to give a lease in

[57] The original "Langhorne" letter is in the *Washington Papers.*
[58] The late John Nicholas, brother of Robert Carter Nicholas.

perpetuity; 3dly because my interest will certainly require that I should attend to the manner in which these lands are to be disposed of to Sub-tenants (notwithstanding they may be let to an individual from certain term) and how they are to be improved, also, what proportion of the wood should be reserved for the support of each farm &ca. &ca. 4thly how the fulfilment of the bargain is to be insured, and the Rents secured; for it is not to be presumed that I would place it in the power of any one to strip the land of all its growth in the course of a few years, leaving me, or my heirs, no other alternative than to repossess it thus injured, or to sell it at an under rate to those who might hold the Woodland back of it; 5thly as I have no doubt of selling these lands for more than eight dollars pr. acre by instalments, if divided into lots of from one to five hundred acres (one fourth of the money to be paid down, and the residue in three annual payments with interest) it is hardly to be expected that I would part with the fee simple thereof for eight dollars an acre at any time that might best suit the Leasee, within ten years, while the Rent, according to your proposition (after two years exemption) is, fixed at $9883 until the year 1801, and then, if I understand your scheme, but suppose I do not, as (besides lying out of the Rents 6 years) they, contrary to all usage, are reduced, instead of being increased. I say an indulgence of this sort, under such circumstances, cannot be expected, when the common interest arising from the Sale of 23000 acs. at eight dollars only, would amt. to $11,040 annually, from the day of Sale.

If, after giving you this view of my sentiments on your last proposition, you should think a personal interview would contribute to the removal of difficulties, I should as I am rarely from home, except in my usual rides between breakfast and dinner, be ready to give it, at any time that may be convenient to yourself, before you leave Alexandria. I am etc.

## *To JOHN LUZAC[59]

Mount Vernon, December 2, 1797.

Sir: The letter for which I am indebted to your politeness, dated "Leyden the 10th. of September 1797" with the book which accompanied it, I had the pleasure to receive about three days since, and, in thanking you for both, I hasten to acknowledge the sense I have of the favorable sentiments you have been pleased to express of me.

To have steered my *Bark* amid the intricacies of variegated public employment to a haven of rest with an approving conscience; and while receiving the approbation of my own country for the part I have acted, to meet similar proofs of it from many of the moderate and virtuous of other countries consummates my greatest wish and all my ambition and in my eye is more precious than any thing, that Power or riches could have bestowed.

In times of turbulence, when the passions are afloat, calm reason is swallowed up in the extremes to wch. measures are attempted to be carried; but when those subside and the empire of it is resumed, the man who acts from principle, who pursues the paths of truth, moderation and justice, will regain his influence. Such, I persuade myself will be, if it has not already been, your case.

To the writings and conduct of men of this description (amongst whom you have always been placed) America is much indebted. And as a private citizen, for that is the class in which I now move, I offer you my thanks for the part you have acted, and for the Annals you have been pleased to record of one, who with pleasure subscribes himself your obedient, &c.

---

[59] Philologist and professor of Greek in the University of Leyden; editor in chief of the *Gazette de Leyde*.

## *To BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE

Mount Vernon, December 3, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th. of June has been duly received, and gave us the first certain acct. of your arrival in Holland, which we received with pleasure.

My family are much as you left them, and my avocations being altogether of a domestic nature I concern myself little in matters beyond my outer Inclosures; indeed I find enough to do within them, for upon a more critical examination of my buildings and appendages it has been discovered, that in a year or two more some of them wou'd not have been susceptible of repair. More by accident than design it was (luckily) discovered in time, that the great girder which supports the sleepers in my new room was so much decayed that a Company only moderately large wou'd have sunk altogether into the Cellar. In short I have been surrounded with workmen of different descriptions ever since I came home and am not yet done with them and shall for some time to come have occasion for a Joiner.

As it may be in your power to give some explanation of the matter, I shall inform you that in looking over my public Accts. which you closed at Philadelphia, previously to your embarkation for Europe, I was surprized to find the following article of charge when but the April before I was similarly debited in a sum of two hundred and odd Dollars "By errors, losses and accounts paid at different times and omitted to be entered $1147.15."

This is a large omission in the space of a twelve month; It wou'd require a number of small accounts to form such an aggregate, and the receipts to large ones ought to have corrected the error. I mention it however to see if you can furnish an explanation.

We suppose your mother and friends are well because we have heard nothing to the contrary. Your brother William I know is, because I see him but a few days ago. Your Aunt and others of the family unite with me in very good wishes for your happiness and prosperity and with Affectionate regard etc.

P. S. Mrs. Peter has got another daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Law and their daughter are now here and well.

## *To LOUIS DE LA COLOMBE[60]

Mount Vernon, December 3, 1797.

Sir: Your favour of the 21st. ulto.[61] came duly to hand; for the pleasing and interesting contents of it, I offer you my best thanks; notwithstanding I had received by the same Mail, similar accounts from our Ministers at London and the Hague, inclosing extracts of letters to them from the Consul of the United States at Hamburgh.

I congratulate you, on the happy event of the liberation of our mutual friend Genl. Lafayette, whose reception in this country will be, I am sure, cordial from all descriptions of people; from none more than myself.

The answer given by him to the Minister is noble, and worthy of himself. The only regret I should feel on his arrival in America (if it shd. happen soon) would be his disappointment at not finding his Son here. I said all I could, with decency, both to him and Mr. Frestel to induce their awaiting *direct* accounts from the Prisoners before their departure; but the eagerness of the former to embrace his Parents in the first moments of their release from a cruel imprisonment was not to be restrained. Among other arguments I observed that

[60] A French émigré at Philadelphia. He had been adjutant general of the National Guard of France when Lafayette was in command of it.

[61] In the *Washington Papers*.

although it was not *probable*, yet it was at least *possible* that they might be crossing the Ocean in different directions at the same time. Unfortunate indeed would this be for both, especially the Son, should it so happen. Slow travelling, and a little delay at Hamburgh of Genl. Lafayette and family, *may* give time for the arrival of the Son at Havre; and I hope it will be the case; for the shock must be great to both parties, if they should pass each other. With esteem &c.

PS. As the enclosure seems to have been a Paper transmitted for your satisfaction I return it at a [illegible].

## *To WILLIAM VANS MURRAY

Mount Vernon, December 3, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favors of the 26th of August (and a duplicate) and 16th. and 17th. of Septr. with the enclosures have been duly received, and meet as they ought my particular thanks. The letter alluded to in the first is yet missing, but may notwithstanding get to hand.

I feel much obliged by your polite attention to me, and though from retirement you can receive little more in return from me than sincere friendship I shall hope for a continuation of your correspondence. I rarely stir from home, never beyond Alexandria or the Federal City; indeed if my inclinations were more extensive business would restrain them; for at no period of my life have I been more closely engaged (though more importantly employed) than during the months I have been at home. Hardly a resident for the last five and twenty years at this place, eight of them at the close thereof, I have found upon an examination into the state of my buildings, that time and want of attention (which short occasional Visits while I was in the Administration of Government allowed me

not leizure to bestow) have caused such depredations thereon and every thing connected with them and have so deranged all matters of private concern, that what with the plague and trouble proceeding from the number of workmen I have been obliged to employ,and of other matters little interesting to any but myself I have been occupied from the "rising of the sun to the setting of the same," and which as the wise man has said "may be all vanity and vexation of spirit," but as I did not seek it a source of happiness, but entered upon as a case of necessity, a line may be drawn between his disappointmts. and mine.

Your account and others, which I received about the same time of the liberation of Genl. De Lafayette, is interesting and highly pleasing. Should he with his family proceed immediately to America as is enjoined upon him by the Emperor he will experience one source of regret on his arrival, namely that his son sailed for Havre about the last of Octr. in expectation of finding him in Paris (from the measures the Directory had taken to obtain his releasement). I proceeded as far as a strong opposing opinion would allow me to induce him to await *direct* advice of this event from his father but his eagerness to embrace his parents and Sisters, in the first moments of their liberation; the belief that the Prisoners at Almutz were released, before it actually (as it seems) had happened; and conviction that he wou'd be under no embarrassments in France even if they were not, overcame all opposition. I went so far however as to observe, that it was *possible* though perhaps not *probable* that he and his friends might be upon the Ocean steering different courses at the same time. But as this, under the then appearance of things was not supposed likely to happen, his fear of a winter passage gave the preponderance, and on the 26th. of Octr. he set sail from New York for Havre de grace.

I am very glad to find that the Colleagues of General Pinckney had arrived safe in Holland, and that all three according to Newspaper accts. were set down in Paris. What their reception has been and what may be the issue of the negociation with which they are charged, is not for me to pronounce, the late revolution however at that place, will not introduce *them* under the most favorable auspices in my opinion; but this event like all other Acts of the French Government is extolled by men *amongst* us as a master piece of Vigilance, wisdom and patriotism. The means used to effect this are *not overlooked,* but applauded; of course then Constitution, like Treaties, are not obligatory when they become inconvenient. but I will quit politics and having nothing of a domestic nature to entertain you with shall soon put an end to my letter. Congress are in Session and as the Gazettes are transmitted to you, you will learn more from them than I could say. Mr. Izard I have not seen. The enclosed letters I take the liberty of committing to your care, and with compliments for Mrs. Murray in which Mrs. Washington unites, I remain with much truth, etc.

## *To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, December 4, 1797.

My dear Sir: With much pleasure I received your letter of the 19th. of September from Rotterdam; and that pleasure proceeded in a great measure from the congeniality of sentiments which prevail between you and Genl. Marshall; having taken the liberty of introducing him to you as a Gentleman, in whom you might place entire confidence.

What has been the reception of the Embassy by the French Directory, is, to me, unknown; and what will be the result of it, is not for me to predict. The change, however, which took place at Paris on the 4th of September adds nothing to my

hope of a favourable issue. In this I *may* be mistaken; but of another thing I am certain I shall not, and that is, that the failure (if such be the case) cannot be attributed to the want of justice on the part of the United States or from the want of an able representation of it, on the part of their Negociators. Of course the issue must be favourable, or conviction will be produced in all, except those who do not want to be convinced, that we have nothing to expect from the justice of the Nation with whom we are treating. In either case we shall ascertain our ground.

That the Government of France views us as a divided people, I have little doubt; and that they have been led to entertain that opinion from representations, and the conduct of many of our own citizens, is still less doubtful; but I shall be very much mistaken, indeed, in the mass of the People of the United States, if an occasion should call for an unequivocal expression of the public voice, if the first wd. not find themselves very much deceived; and the latter (their leaders excepted) to change their notes. I pray devoutly that the Directory may not bring the matter to trial.

I have received the letter and Book[62] from Mr. Luzac of Leyden, which are mentioned in yours, and have offered him my thanks for both, in a letter put under cover to Mr. Murray at the Hague, expressive also of the sense I entertain of his uniform and friendly sentiments towards these United States.

Mr. Izard, I have not yet seen, if he should call upon me on his way to Charleston I shall be very happy; on many accts.; to shew him all the civility in my power. The enclosed for young Lafayette I must request your care of. Having received premature advice (from some of his correspondants in Ham-

[62] The title is not mentioned either in Luzac's or Pinckney's letters, but it is probably the volume listed in the "Inventory &c. of Articles at Mount Vernon," made by the appraisers of Washington's estate, as "Luzac's Oration."

burgh) of the liberation of his father and friends, his eagerness to embrace them in the first moments of it, could not be restrained; although I endeavoured to convince him that it would be more prudent to await the confirmation from *themselves;* and among other things observed to him, that although it was not *probable,* still it was *possible,* that his Parents might be on their Voyage to America whilst he was seeking them in Europe. Should this prove to be the case (as appears not unlikely from the injunction of the Emperor) it will be a matter of sore regret to both. The confidence however, which he placed in his information; the advancement of the Season, and his fear of a Winter passage; gave the preponderancy to his inclination over my opinion. He is a sensible and well disposed young man, full of felial affection and every sentiment to render him estimable.

Information with respect to public matters, will go to you from a more direct, and purer fountain than mine, I mean from the Department of State; and that which more immediately concerns myself, is too unimportant to trouble you with, further than to assure you, which I can do with much truth, that in your public mission, and in your private capacity, I wish you all the success, and prosperity that your heart can desire; and that with the greatest sincerity I am, etc.[63]

## *To FELIX FRESTAL

Mount Vernon, December 4, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your conjunct letters from New York and 2nd: of Novr. from Sea, and your seperate letter of the 22d. of October[64] from the former place, have all been received with that

[63] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[64] All three of these letters from George Washington Motier Lafayette and Frestal are in the *Washington Papers.*

satisfaction which I shall always feel in hearing that you are well, and happy; as I sincerely wish you may be in a meeting of your friends in the bosom of your native Country.

For the flattering terms in which you have expressed your sense of the civilities, which your merits alone independent of the consideration of being the mentor and companion of our young friend, richly entitled you to, I offer you my thanks. And for the sentiments of friendship with which you are pleased to honor me, I shall always entertain a lively and grateful remembrance. You carried with you the regrets of the whole family, at parting; and I can assure you Sir, that if you should visit America again we shall feel very happy in seeing you under this roof; and in your walks.

Except the commencement (if we are to judge from appearances) of a very hard Winter, nothing have occurred since you left us, which is at all interesting. The branches of this family with which you are acquainted, remain in Statu quo; except that Mrs. Peter has added another daughter to the Stock, and my nephew Lawrence Washington a wife to his bosom; at the ceremonial of which Lawrence Lewis attended, and is not yet returned.

I will engross no more of your time than while I can assure you, of the very great esteem etc.

## *To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, December 4, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your very interesting and obliging favor of the 15th. of September from the Hague, came duly to hand, and I thank you sincerely for the important details with which it is fraught, and pray for the continuation of them.

I congratulate you too on your safe arrival from Ship-board; and, as the Newspapers tell us, at Paris; and I wish in a little

while hence I may have it in my power to do the same on the favourable conclusion of your Embassy, and happy return to your family and friends in this Country. To predict the contrary might be as unjust as it would be impolitic, and therefore, Mum, on that topic. Be the issue however, what it may, three things I shall be perfectly satisfied of; and these are, that nothing which justice, sound reasoning, and fair representation would require, will be wanting to render it just and honorable; and if it is not so, that the eyes of all, in this country, who are not wilfully blind, and resolved to remain so (some from one motive, and some from another), will be fully opened; and lastly, that if the French Directory proceed on the supposition that the parties in these United States are nearly equal, and that one of them would advocate their measures in the dernier resort, they will greatly deceive themselves; for the *Mass* of our Citizens require no more than to understand a question to decide it properly, and an adverse conclusion of the Negotiation will effect this. Indeed, I believe it may be said with truth, that a very great change in the public mind has taken place already. The leaders, it is true, attempt to keep up the Ball: which is evidently declining; but as both houses of Congress have formed quorums, and received the Presidents Speech, the response of the Representative branch will be some criterian by which this opinion of mine may be tried, though not a conclusive one.

The situation of things in Holland is a good lesson for us, if we are disposed to profit by it; but unfortunately the nature of man is such, that the experience of others is not attended to as it ought to be; we must *feel ourselves,* before we can think, or perceive the danger that threatens; but as this letter (after it quits the Office of the Secretary of State, to whose care I shall send it) may pass through many hands, I shall dwell very little on European Politics. It is laughable enough, however, to

behold those men, *amongst us,* who were reprobating in the severest terms, and sounding the Tocsin upon every occasion that a wild imagination could *torture* into a stretch of Power, or unconstitutionality in the Executive of the United States, all of a sudden become the warm advocates of those high handed measures of the French Directory which *succeeded* the arrestations on the 4th. of September: and this too without *denying* that the barriers of the constitution under which they acted have been *overleaped,* but do it on the ground of *tender mercy,* and an *unwillingness* to shed blood. But so it always has been, and I presume ever will be with men, who are governed more by passion and party views than by the dictates of justice, temperance and sound policy. If there were good grounds to suspect that the proscribed and banished characters were engaged in a conspiracy against the Constitution of the People's choice, to seize them even in an irregular manner, might be justified upon the ground of expediency, or self preservation; but after they were secured and amenable to the Laws to condemn them without *a hearing; and consign them to punishment more rigorous perhaps than death* is the summit of despotism.

A very severe winter has commenced. Since the first of November we have hardly experienced a moderate Day; heavy rains following severe frosts have done more damage to the Winter grain, now growing, than I recollect ever to have seen. At this moment and for several days past, all the Creeks and small waters are hard bound with Ice, and the Navigation of the River, if not entirely stopped is yet, very much impeded by it. The Crops of Indian Corn in the lower parts of the State, have been uncommonly great: midway of it, tolerably good; but under the Mountains and above them, extremely bad, with partial exceptions. The Wheaton Crop, in quantity turned out better than was expected; in quality remarkable fine; the white or early wheat, weighing from 60, to 64 lb. pr. bushel.

The Virginia assembly is, or ought to be, in Session; but what the temper of it is I know not. Its composition you must be better acquainted with than I am.

Young Lafayette, too fondly led by his eagerness to embrace his Parents and Sisters in the first moments of their releasement from Prison; and unintentionally deceived by premature accounts from his frds. at Hamburg, that this event had actually taken place; embarked for this purpose on the 26th. of Octr. at New York for Havre de Grace. Since which, official accts. having been received of the terms on which his liberation was granted by the Emperor the meeting in Europe is become problematical; a circumstance, should it happen, which will be sorely regretted on both sides. I said all I could to induce him to wait here until he should receive a *direct* advice from his father but his impatience on the one hand, and his confidence in the information he had received that his Parents were on their way to Paris, on the other, his apprehensions from a winter passage, and belief that, he should not be illy received in France; even if they were not there, turned the scale against my opinion and advice that he should postpone his departure until he heard *from* him or one of the family. With very great esteem etc.

## *To GEORGE WASHINGTON MOTIER LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, December 5, 1797.

My dear George: With that pleasure which I shall always feel at hearing from you, or of any thing which may contribute to your happiness, I received your several letters from New York, dated in October and that of the 2d. of November from Sea, by Mr. Latimer. If my best vows would have contributed to a prosperous Voyage, and a happy meeting with your Parents and Sisters in France, both must have happened to the

utmost extent of your wishes 'ere this, for they were offered on the Altar of Sincerity; and are now followed with assurances that, if you should ever return to America again, that you will find the same cordial reception within the Walls of this Mansion, as you have heretofore experienced.

Great as my wishes are that you may have met with your Parents in France, I am not without fear, from our late accounts that you have been disappointed. How far the event which took place in Paris, on the 4th. of September, may have effected their prospects in that Country, is not for me (who knows so little of the principles which governed on that occasion) to express any opinion thereon; but as I have seen an official report from the American Consul at Hamburgh, of the terms on which the Prisoners at Olmutz were released, the proceedings of your Parents after their arrival at Hamburgh, is rendered equivocal with us.

Few things have occurred, since you left us which merit attention, except an earlier Winter than has almost ever been known; for since the beginning of November we have scarcely experienced a moderate day; and at this moment the Mercury in Fahrenht. is standing at 10° only above 0. The Creeks and smaller Waters are all shut up, and the navigation of the River is much impeded by Ice.

Mrs. Peter has added another daughter to the family and both mother and child are well, as are Mr. and Mrs. Law and their child, who are now here on a visit before their departure for Philadelphia, at which place they propose to spend the Winter. The younger parts of this family are also in good health, and unite most cordially with me in tendering you their best wishes, to which I add assurances of the sincere friendship and affectionate regard of Yours etc.

P. S. As you noticed in one of your letters from New York Christopher's excursion to Bethleham, I have pleasure in informing you, that he derived so much aid from the medicine he took as to have remained perfectly well ever since; and has placed such confidence in his Doctrs. skill, that he wou'd not again dispair of being cured of the bite of a mad dog; if the Hydrophoby was strong upon him.

## To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, December 5, 1797.

My dear Sir: Not knowing when, where or whether ever this letter may reach your hands the contents will be small, and the purport merely congratulatory on your releasement from a cruel imprisonment; the official acct. of which we have at length received.

On what principle you have undergone this rigorous treatment, I have been unable to divine, but be this as it may, no one rejoices more than I do that a period is put to it.

By the Gazettes we are informed and it is confirmed by the American Consul at Hamburg, who received it from the imperial Minister, that you were to proceed immediately from Olmutz to that place where eight days only was allowed you to remain before you were enjoined to embark for America or steer for Holland; thus far and no further are we informed and under this alternative we are unable to decide, since the event of the 4th. of Septr. at Paris, what has been your choice. If to come to this Country it will be a matter of extreme regret that your Son led by an ardent desire and premature advice of your liberation, has flown to France in hopes and expectation of embracing his Parents and Sisters in the first moments of

their releasement. If the latter, the meeting with such a Son deserving of all your care and attention must be supremely happy; and may considered I hope as an indication of a favorable disposition to receive you again into the bosom of your country. Viewing the matter on either point it renders a further expression of my sentiments unnecessary: for if by going to Holland you shou'd meet your son he will present a letter from me to you, of which he is the bearer: on the other hand if you should proceed from Hamburg to America, this letter which I shall also put under cover to George, cannot find you in Europe. I shall only add therefore, that if the latter shou'd happen to be the case, that of all the numerous friends which you will find here none will greet you, Madam Lafayette and your daughters with a more sincere and cordial welcome than myself and all parts of this family would do. all of whom have felt for your suffering and rejoice exceedingly that a period is so far put to them, as to be released from a cruel imprisonment; to go further in assurances of my friendship and regard would be unnecessary, as you must be convinced of the affectionate attachment of him who has been always Sincerely Yours.

P. S. Mrs. Washington Unites with me in respectful complts., and every good wish for you Madam Delafayette and Daughters.[65]

## *To RUFUS KING

Mount Vernon, December 6, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 6th. of September has been duly received, and for the information contained in the enclosure, respecting Genl. Lafayette, I offer you my thanks. The footing on which his releasement is placed by the Emperor, and the

[65] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

succeeding event in Paris, on the 4th of September, renders his proceedings after he gets to Hamburgh, problematical.

Should these circumstances (for it is not easy to say what effect the latter may have on his prospects in France) induce him to steer his course immediately for this Country, it will be a matter of sore regret to him, and his Son, that they shall have passed each other on the Ocean.

Deluded (though not designedly) by premature information of his parents liberation and journeying to France, by a correspondent at Hamburgh, his eagerness to embrace them, and his Sisters, in the first moments of their reception in France; the fear of a Winter passage (should he delay his departure); and persuasion, as he left his native country under the authority of the Government, that he had nothing to apprehend from his return to it; overcame my advice to him to await a *direct* account from his father which would not only have ascertain'd the fact but might also have pointd. out a course which he would have him pursue. Nay, I went so far as to tell him, that although it was not probable, it was nevertheless possible, he might be disappointed of his object, by the means which seems likely to have happened; but his purpose, from the considerations already mentioned, were not to be diverted and being excited by the purest filial affection, for he is really a sensible, amiable, and valuable youth, I shall feel much for the disappointment of both parties, if they do not meet in Europe. With the highest esteem etc. [N.Y.H.S.]

## *To JAMES WELCH

Mount Vernon, December 7, 1797.

Sir: I have revolved the subject of our yesterdays conversation, and as you disclosed a spirit of liberality in it, I wish we

may agree; but I shall inform you with frankness that to part with the fee simple in my Kanhawa lands is the greatest impediment in the way of our bargaining; and I will, as frankly assign the reasons.

It has got about, I do not know how, that eight dollars pr. acre is the price I had fixed upon my *Kanhawa* lands, but this is a mistake, the most I ever said on the subject (unless my memory has failed me much) has been that I had been *offered* eight dollars an acre for some of my lands on the Ohio of inferior quality (in my estimation) and had refused it, and it is likely I might have added, that if the *whole* of my western lands cd. be disposed of at *that rate,* that I would accept the offer, but it is to be recollected that this would have included near 10,000 Acres on the Ohio, between the Great and little Kanhawa, and 3000 On the little Miami, near the mouth thereof. It is well known that I have declared often, that no one should have my tract of 10,990 acres on the Great Kanhawa for less than ten dollars an acre, if for that, as I know the possibilities of it myself well, having been 3 days on it myself, and you yourself observed, yesterday, that you conceived the other tracts of mine on that River, were very little inferior to it.

Notwithstanding this detail and expression of my sense of the value of these lands, I shall candidly acknowledge that the rent you offer for them is as much as could be expected under *present* circumstances, if the annual payment of it can be secured for the first Six years, in the manner you have suggested. After which, the presumption being, that within that time, for your own security, you will take care to have responsible Tenants thereon, the risk will be less, and the property possessed by them, together with the right of Re-entry, may be deemed sufficit.

Under this statement of the case, I make you the following offer, which comes pretty near to your own proposition; that is to say, as the four tracts on the Kanhawa contain 23,215 Acres by the Patents, and by presumption *more,* you shall have a lease of the whole, with proper covenants, skilfully drawn, for thirty years at the rent of $11,143 pr. annum, to become due the last day of Decr. in every year, and payable the first day of May in each; April being an improper season to commence the operations of the years Agriculture which is equivalent, to the interest of a Sale at $8. pr. Acre, and shall be subject thereto in fee within Six years from the first day of January next, provided the Rents are punctually paid during that time; and provided also, that the sum of $200,000 is paid down at the time of the transfer of the Land in fee simple. And that you may be the better enabled to provide tenants and to do this, the first years Rent (to become due the last of Decr. 1798) shall be only $5,000; and the 2d. years rent shall be $8,000 only. 23,216 acres at $8. would amount to no more than $185,728, but so sure am I, that such lands as these must rise in price, that it admits of no doubt, in my mind, that the latter sum paid in a short time, and vested in Stock (3 pr Cts. particularly) would be more advantageous than the former, at, or near the end of Six years, I should not therefore hesitate a moment in giving it the preference.

At the end of thirty years, if the land, before the expiration of six years, is not disposed of in fee simple as above, the lease may be renewed, so as to complete Ninety nine years on the same Covenants, conditioned however for payment of the annual Rent during that period, of $22,286.

If these, which are the great out lines of the proposed agreement, are acceeded to, there can be little or no difference in opinion with respect to other matters; but it may not be amiss, nevertheless, to add that, the tracts are to be laid off into

tenements of a proper size, or sizes, say, for instance from one to 300 acres; that suitable buildings shall be erected, and Orchds. planted within a limited time; that certain proportion of the Woodland and Timber on each tenement, shall be reserved for the support thereof, &ca. &ca; not unusual for the Security of the rights of both Landlord and tenants.

As you requested to know my sentiments on your proposal, today, I have written you this long letter, in haste; if the contents meet your approbation, a line or two will express it, or it may be verbally communicated to Sir Yr. etc.

## *To JAMES KEITH

Mount Vernon, December 10, 1797.

Dear Sir: I have just concluded a bargain with Mr. James Welch of Greenbrier County, for four tracts of land of which I am possessed on the River Kanhawa, and in the County of Kanhawa now Kanhawa, formerly in sevl. other Counties (as you will see by the Patents, and Conveyance herewith enclosed) on the following terms; that is to say, I agree to lease the said lands, to the said James, for the term of 30 years, to commence on the 1st. day of January next (1798) at the Rent of $5,000 for the first year, to conclude the 31st of Decr. following for $8,000 the next year, and from thence until the expiration of the 30 yrs. for $11,143 annually; and for 99 years *thereafter* on an annual Rent of $22,286. The Rents are always to become due on the aforesaid 31st of Decr. in each year, and destrainable for two Calendar months thereafter. With express Covenants to Re-enter upon the land if the same is not regularly and duly paid.

It is further agreed, that the said James Welch not only may, but shall, lay out the aforesaid tracts of land into convenient tenements of from 50, to 300 Acres according to the abilities,

and force of the applicants; and may let the same, but for no longer term than is granted to himself. Each tenant being obliged within [66] years to build a comfortable dwelling house of Stone or Brick, or of Wood with a stone or Brick Chimney; build a Barn, plant orchards and make meadow suitable to the size, and importance of the Tenement; and is moreover, to be compelled to keep a fourth of the Wood and timber in reserve (for the support of the premises) until the expiration of the terms for which the tracts are granted being 30 years; and 1/5 to remain so at the expiration of the further term of 99 years. The Sub-tenants to be subject to all the covenants that the principal is, for the Landlords security except the quantum of Rents (which is to be a matter between themselves).

Lastly, it is agreed that the said James Welch shall have the priviledge of purchasing the fee simple in the aforesaid tracts on the following conditions; that is, if on the 1st. day of Jany. which shall be in the year 1804 he shall pay the sum of $50,000, one fourth of the Rent of $11,143 shall cease for *that* year; if on the 1st day of Jany. 1805 $50,000 more shall be paid, another fourth of the rent shall be deminished for *that* year; if $50,000 more shall be paid on the first of Jany. in the year 1806, another fourth of the rent shall cease for *that* year: and if, on the 1st. day of Jany. 1807 $50,000 more shall be paid, then, and thereafter, the Rents are to cease altogether, and the said Jas. Welch is to be seized in fee, of the property; and a conveyance thereof is to be made accordingly. But it is understood, and must be clearly so expressed, that in failure of exact payments on or before the days above mentioned, all rights, or possession of right, to the purchase of the Fee simple, ceases from thence forward; but if the first $50,000 is paid, and a failure takes place of the second on the day appointed, then, and in that case the whole

[66] Left blank in the original.

Rent of $11,143 recommences from that time and the $50,000 so paid is to go in discharge of the future rents, wch. [illegible] in that way, and the same if the 2d payment is added to the first, and the 3d. fails, or the 3d added to the other two, and the 4th fails; the positive agreement being, that nothing less than the whole sum of $200,000 pd. precisely at the time aforesaid shall entitle the said Welch a fee simple estate in these lands, and all payments *short* of the whole sum shall be applied in discharge of the future rents, at the rate of $11,143 pr. Annum, until they are expended in this manner.

Being informed that you occasionally employ yourself in draughts of this sort, I apply to you, on this occasion, in preference to any other, being persuaded, as it is a matter of importance that you will give due attention thereto. Whether it is usual for the Lessor the Lessee to pay for the instruments of this sort I know not, but I will see you paid [mutilated] Mr. Welch that I would be in Alexandria on tuesday *next;* against which time if you could have the draught (or rough copy of it) ready, it would be convenient to us both. The right of Re-entry and usual covenants for security of the Landlord and Tenant will of course be inserted [illegible] is to give me [illegible] collateral security for the payment of the first rents; but this will be an after matter. I am always etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, December 11, 1797.

Dear Sir: At the sametime that I acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th. Ulto. enclosing a translation of the Spanish letter, and one from Mr. King let me beg the favour of you to forward these which go under cover with this, to their respective Addresses, along with your own if you should have occasion to write soon to our public characters abroad; or by the

first conveyances if you should not. That to Sir John Sinclair I wish, more than the others, might be forwarded soon.

The probability is that young Lafayette will be disappointed in his expectation of meeting his parents and Sisters in France, or even in Europe. I said everything to him I could, with decency to induce him to await *direct* advice from his father, before he departed from this Country. I even went so far before the condition annexed to his releasement by the Emperor was known, or the Explosion in Paris was suspected, to tell him that altho' the event was not probable, it nevertheless was possible, that he might be going to Europe when his relations were coming to America, and endeavoured to impress the idea upon him that the moment his father was in a situation to write to him that he would; and more than probable point out the course he would have him pursue; but having received letters from some of his correspondents in Europe, informing him of his liberation, and that he was actually on his journey to Paris, his eagerness to see them could no longer be restrained particularly as delay might involve him in a Winters passage, of which he was affraid, and having come out under the authority of the French Government, because he was under no apprehension of ill treatment, if the information he had received was premature.

It will, however, be a matter of sore disappointment and regret, if his Parents have embarked for America before he sees them in Europe, and will be a source of much concern to me also, for he is an amiable and sensible youth; and his eagerness to go, the effect of ardent filial and fraternal affection, and a longing desire to embrace them in the first moments of their liberation from cruel captivity. The disappointment will be as sorely felt by his Parents if they should miss each other.

I hope the calm, with which this Session of Congress has commenced, will not be succeeded by a storm; I shall confess

however that my expectations fall far short of my hopes on this occasion. Tranquility will not continue to the end of it; nor can harmony be looked for, while the same men who were sounding the Tocsin at everything that a wild imagination could construe into even a *tendency* to stretch the Powers of Government here, are advocating the most outrageous violations of it, elsewhere. But no conduct is too absurd, or inconsistent for some men, to give into. To hasten (as you will perceive) to get my letters to the Post office in time; I am with very great Esteem etc.

## *To RICHARD PARKINSON

Mount Vernon, December 15, 1797.

Sir: Since my last of the 28th Ult, a copy of which you will find on the other side I have received your letter of the 27th. of Septr: to which I find little to add, further than to assure you, that it would be very pleasing to me to have my Farms in the hands of skilful Agriculturists, who are *able* and *willing,* to manage them properly. Such if their capitol be sufficient to afford me the necessary security, might enter upon mine with very convenient advantages, as the draught Cattle, stock of every kind and farming implements, or such parts thereof as they might want and I could spare, might go along with the farms at a reasonable valuation; to be paid for at such time or times, and in such manner as may be agreed upon; all of which being on the spot, and assimilated to the Farms, would be convenient to any one, but infinitely more so to a stranger, on his arrival, who would and perhaps without knowing where, have these things to provide, to enable him to prosecute his plan of husbandry.

From the plans of my farms, which have been shewn you by Sir John Sinclair, you will have perceived that they are large,

and require a good deal of force to carry on the various operations of them, I mention this circumstance to caution you against an expectation which you might otherwise have entertained, that labourers in this, as in the old Countries are *always* to be had: The case is otherwise, and besides the difficulty of getting them, their wages (unless you were to employ slaves) and these are not to be had but by the year (and not always then) are high.

For the reasons mentioned in my last letter, there is scarcely a doubt but that that three of my farms will be unengaged from *hence* untill the *first of May;* and if other Farmers were disposed to follow your fortunes, they might be accommodated also. Nor, as the farms are large, am I indisposed to a division of them into many smaller tenements if the measure would be more agreeable, and a plan could be adopted. I am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, December 17, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 24th. Ulto. has been duly received; but one cause or another has prevented the acknowledgment until now, when I thank you for the Presidents Speech which it enclosed, and your obliging offer to render me any services I might need, in Phila.

One reason why I did not sooner notice the offer of a Mr. Barker to pay you on my A/c $500 in behalf of Colonl Shreve, was my expectation that Mr. Ross, for whom I had deposited a letter in Colo. Pickerings hands, to remain there until his arrival, would have been in Philadelphia long 'ere this, and have settled all that business. If, however, it should have happened that Mr. Ross is yet absent, I would thank you for receiving and remitting me the $500 above mentioned; and further,

as he has received more money on my account from Colonl Shreve, you would oblige me (if it be convenient for you to do so) to receive the whole amount there, and give me an order for the like sum in Alexandria.

It is time, now, to hear what the reception of our Envoys at Paris has been; and what their prospects are. It surely cannot be, that Fauchet and Adet are appointed by the Directory to negociate with them! If the fact however, be otherwise, it requires not the spirit of Divination to predict the Issue.

I cannot conclude without offering you my condolence, and I do it sincerely, on the death of your worthy, and much respected father. As it was an event however, which for sometime has been expected, you could not have been unprepared for the stroke; and amidst the affliction, you have the consolation to know that he died "full of years and honours" and regretted, by all who knew him. With best respects for Mrs. Wolcott, in which I am joined by Mrs. Washington and Nelly Custis, I am etc.[67]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

[December 17, 1797.]

Knowing that I should occasionally have many small matters to purchase in Phila. wch. I did not incline to trouble my friends with; or any one who would not receive a Commission thereon, I committed this business to Col Clemt. Biddle, who in the Interval between the Revolutionary War and my call to the Administration of the prest Governmt had done the like for me, and in order to enable to do this I gave him a power to

[67] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Mrs. James W. T. McCrea, of East Rockaway, Long Island, N. Y.

receive the interest on my public certificates and other unimportant sums to accrue from the Sale of parts of my furniture undisposed of when I left Philada. but not having for sometime (tho' expected) heard from him it has created some suspicion in my mind, that he may be involved in the distresses of the times. I take the liberty therefore of asking you, without wishing any notice to be taken of it, whether there be any appearance of this, or not.[68]

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, December 18, 1797.

My Dear Bushrod: Your letter of the 26th. ulto. came safe in the usual course of the mail, and about a week ago Mrs. Forbes arrived; and from her appearance, and conduct hitherto, gives satisfaction to your aunt. Having, as she says, obtained ten dollars of you, to defray her expences to this place; I herein return them, with thanks for the aid it afforded to get her here. and as you may have paid for the copies of sundry papers taken

[68] This letter was inclosed in the preceding letter (December 17) to Secretary Wolcott. (See foot note to Washington's letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, Jan. 22, 1798, *post*.

On December 17 Mrs. Washington wrote to Mrs. Eliza Powel, in Philadelphia, a long gossipy letter which was drafted by the General. The following paragraph, which is the only part of the letter which alludes to the General, is taken from a facsimile in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress: "I am now, by desire of the General to add a few words on his behalf; which he desires may be expressed in the terms following, that is to say, that despairing of hearing what may be said of him, if he should really go off in an Apopletic, or any other fit, (for he thinks all fits that issue in death, are worse than a love fit, a fit of laughter, and many other kinds which he could name); he is glad to hear *beforehand* what will be said of him on that occasion; conceiving that nothing extra: will happen between *this* and *then* to make a change in his character for better, or for worse. And besides, as he has entered into an engagement with Mr. Morris, and several other Gentlemen, not to quit the theatre of *this* world before the year 1800, it may be *relied upon* that no breach of contract shall be laid to him on that account, unless dire necessity should bring it about, maugre all his exertions to the contrary. In that case, he shall hope they would do by him as he would by them, excuse it. At present there seems to be no danger of his giving them the slip, as neither his health, nor spirits, were ever in greater flow, notwithstanding he adds, he is descending, and has almost reached, the bottom of the hill; or in other words, the shades below."

from the Records of the General Court, let me know the amount, and it shall be remitted also.

About a month ago, a Mr. Woodward, living, according to his own account, at Greenbrier Courthouse, presented draughts (of which the enclosed are copies) from the Sheriff of Kanhawa for taxes of my land in that County. As I was unacquainted with the Law imposing these; with the drawer; presenter of them; and certifier that Alderson was the Sheriff of that County, I did not incline to pay the amount without making further enquiry into the matter. Upon this he informed me that I might obtain the necessary information at the Treasury, or Auditor's Office in Richmond; to which the returns were made, and where the money might be, and often was, paid, instead of doing it to the Sheriff of the Back counties, by Non-residents. You would oblige me by making this enquiry, and if the taxes are correctly stated, and the amount of them can be paid with propriety in Richmond, to inform me thereof; and measures shall be taken as soon as I am in Cash, to discharge the same. The enclosed paper, after it has enabled you to make the necessary enquiry, may be returned to me again. The family here, join me in offering you and Mrs. Washington the compliments of the approaching festival and I am with much truth Your sincere friend and affectionate uncle.

## *To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, December 21, 1797.

Mr. Anderson: As the present year is about to close, it is my desire that all the accompts from the commencement of your Management, up to the first of January, may be fully stated and laid before me on, or about that day.

In doing this, I shall expect to see at one view, all the monies which you have received, and all that you have expended (on my a/c); together with the balances which may be due for articles sold and paid for, or paid in part only, comprehended. This will be a general a/c, embracing everything. Besides which, I shall require a seperate and particular a/c of the principal articles that have been disposed of (such as Fish, but of this I believe I am in possession already, Whiskey, Hay, Meats of all kinds, Flour, Seeds, &ca. To whom sold, and at what prices, that I may know the amount of each, and what has been the product of my Farms aggregately, for the year ending the 31st. of this month.

And as it will be more convenient, and more to be desired, I request that for the ensuing year, and every year thereafter, the accompts may, without fail, be rendered quarterly to prevent misconceptions, or to rectify more easily, mistakes, if any from inadvertence should have been committed, viz, on the first days of January, April, July and October. By so doing I shall be regularly, and frequently advertised how matters are going on, and can retrench, or proceed accordingly. This has been the practice in my Public Walk of life, and I mean (now I am fixed at home) to pursue it in my domestic transactions, the utility of it, having been abundantly demonstrated.

Having now had the experience of a year's service of you, as a Manager of my concerns, I should not do justice to my own feelings were I not to declare (as far as my knowledge of facts, and my opportunities have enabled me to judge) that they have been conducted with integrity, zeal, and ability, and, of course have met my approbation. There are some things however which I conceive may be improved, and candour, mixed with motives of friendship, have induced me to mention them to you.

The most prominent of these are, that after measures have been suggested by *you* and approved by *me* there appears to have been a tardiness in carrying them into execution. Providing the materials, and erecting the building for the Distillery, is a striking, and will prove an expensive specimen of this; for hardly a day arrives that does not produce some evidence of the disadvantage arising therefrom or thereof of time, risk, and difficulty of getting the materials to the spot: and the man who does not estimate *time* as *money* will forever miscalculate; for altho' the latter is not paid for the former, it is nevertheless a sure item in the cost of any undertaking. and this leads me to notice some other matters in which there is a manifest loss of it; namely, shifting suddenly from one kind of work to another (this has been very apparent with respect to the Ditchers) and in ordering people to come from the Farms to the Mansion (sometimes with Carts) and keeping them waiting more than half a day before you come to dispatch them, sending Carts frequently to Alexr. with, or for, trifles, which always come home injuriously late for the teams; when if a Memm. was kept of what was to go to, and to be brought from thence, and to send when there was a full load only (except in cases of necessity) one trip might do in place of two or three; Again, it is not uncommon, when one thing is to be carried to, and another thing brought from the same Farm, to make two trips to accomplish it, when one would answer.

These matters seem to arise from a want of arrangement. Circumstances it is true, may, occasionally, produce such effects; and sometimes call labourers from settled, to occasional employment, before the former is accomplished; but this ought never to happen if it can be avoided; for besides the loss of time occasioned thereby, more work will be done in the *sametime* when people are kept steadily at it, than when they are taken

from, and return to it again; for although the work itself is not new to them, yet new arrangements must be made, and time is required to get them fairly settled to it. It follows, if these observations are just, and they are clearly so to my mind, that the whole business of Farms, of Ditching, and so of any other employment that is intended to be permanent, ought to be systematical digested, not from day to day, or week to week, but for as long a time as can well be foreseen and the persons who are immediately to have the conducting thereof to be informed accordingly: and unless imperious necessity, or weather, the last of which ought always to be provided for (as there is work to suit all kinds of it) the system should be adhered to.

If a person only sees, or directs from day to day what is to be done, business can never go on methodically or well, for in case of sickness, or the absence of the Director, delays must follow. System to all things is the soul of business. To deliberate maturely, and execute promptly is the way to conduct it to advantage. With me, it has always been a maxim, rather to let my designs appear from my works than by my expressions. To talk long before hand, of things to be done, is unpleasant, if those things can as well be done at one time or another; but I do not mean by this to discourage you from proposing any plans to me which you may conceive to be beneficial, after having weighed them well in your own mind; on the contrary, I request you to do it with the utmost freedom, for the more combined, and distant things are seen, the more likely they are to be turned to advantage.

I have been thus particular because one scene is closing, and another opening, because I shall be able to go but little out of the house this winter having appropriated it to the assorting, and arranging my voluminous papers; a task of no small magnitude; and because I am more and more convinced the oftener

I think of the plan of placing Union and Dogue Run Farms under one head, of the indispensable necessity of great exertion on *your part,* as well as on that of the immediate Overlooker's, to prevent the work *cattle* and stock of *every kind* from suffering on the latter and the grain and other things from embezzlement. To do which, and to keep the work progressing to advantage, the plainest, the most precise, and simple system ought to be adopted and adhered to. I shall confess that my mind never, implicitly yielded to this plan, and unless these suggestions are attended to, I shall be seriously afraid that the endeavor to save an Overseers Wages and allowance; will be effected by a serious loss in other respects; for experience has fully shewn I think, that with the vigilance of an Overseer at each place, idleness and roguery are still practised. What have I to expect then, when the latitude is increased, and the opportunities to accomplish these, are extended? More than ordinary attention too, to the Tools and Impliments of the Farms, will be required; not only at Dogue run but at the others also; for it is inconceivable that Isaac *always* and Joe *frequently* should be employed in making and repairing Ploughs and Carts; abuse, more than the use of these things, must be the cause of it, and requires to be looked into with an investigating Eye. I shall only add that I wish you well, and success in all your measures, being your friend &ca.

## *To THOMAS LAW

Mount Vernon, December 25, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 22d instt. came to hand last night. The Pointer shall be taken care of at *this place* until you may find it convenient to send for him; for he certainly would not long remain with Mr. Atkinson[69] if sent thither, and if he

[69] Guy Atkinson.

should not return here again, it is more than probable he would be carried off by some Waggoner or Waterman from Alexandria and be lost to you.

It is very pleasing to hear that the State of Maryland continues disposed to extend its fostering hand to the important objects on this River. Much is it to be wished, that the example would (as it ought to do) shed its influence on the Legislature of this Commonwealth, now in Session.

The letter from Marquis Cornwallis to the Revd. Mr. Law is returned, and in assorting some of my papers during the last cold spell, I came across some other enclosures of yours to me; one of which from Mr. Barry (containing other matter than the introduction of two Spanish Gentlemen to you) is also returned. To stand high in the estimation of so respectable a character as Lord Cornwallis, is a circumstance which must be as pleasing as it is honourable to you.

It gave us much pleasure to hear that Mrs. Law, yourself and the child were all well, and that the latter begins, so soon, to learn the use of her feet. *We,* remain in Statu quo, and all unite in offering you, and yours, the compliments of the season; and the return of many, many more, and happy ones. With very great esteem and regard I remain etc.[70]

## *To JOHN MASON

Mount Vernon, January 2, 1798.

Sir: I am just informed by the President of the Potomac Company, that the application to the Maryland Assembly on be half of that Company, for aid to complete their works, has met with much delay, and even at this time, is uncertain in its event. A circumstance which I learn with no small regret.

[70] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

Understanding also, from the same source, that some persons have expressed a doubt whether I still entertain the same favourable opinion of the importance of the Navigation of the Potomac that I formerly did, I take the liberty, Sir, (as you are at Annapolis) of troubling you with a repetion [*sic*] of the opinion which I have invariably expressed, concerning the advantages of that undertaking; and you have my permission to communicate it whenever it may be necessary and proper, to obviate any doubts as mentioned above, or even otherwise promote the interest of the Company.

So far from being less sanguine than I formerly was, of the many and great advantages which will accrue from completing the navigation of the Potomack, I have every day additional reason for supporting my former opinion, and new proof of its advantages extending beyond the calculation of the most sanguine.

To the States of Virginia and Maryland it offers benefits too obvious to mention, and too numerous, to detail in a letter. To the United States, as well as to the two before Mentioned, it holds out the desireable advantage of perhaps the most direct and easiest communication between the Waters of the Atlantic States and the Western country. To the Stockholders, the completion of the work promises an ample increasing, and secure interest.

Under these impressions, it is astonishing to me, that, if the State can, conveniently spare the means, there should be wanting (unless the measure appears differently in the eyes of its Representatives) the disposition to complete this great and interesting work, especially too as the money already expended must be lost, without the addition of a comparatively small sum to finish the object; and especially also, as the few Individuals who at this time have the command of money find so many

objects in which they can employ it to immediate advantage that they cannot be induced to come forward in aid, however flattering the future emoluments may be. Wishing you success. I am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, January 2, 1798.

Dear Sir: This letter will be presented to you by Mr. Elliot, the son of a meritorious Officer in the Revolutionary War. He has equitable (if not legal) claim to Land. I have advised him to shew you the nature of it. If it is within your power to serve him, I am sure you will. If not, you can advise him as to the course best to be taken. Always, and sincerely, I am etc.

## *To GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

January 7, 1798.

System in all things should be aimed at; for in execution, it renders every thing more easy.

If now and then, of a morning before breakfast, you are inclined, by way of change, to go out with a Gun, I shall not object to it; provided you return by the hour we usually set down to that meal.

From breakfast, until about an hour before Dinner (allowed for dressing, and preparing for it, that you may appear decent) I shall expect you will confine yourself to your studies; and diligently attend to them; endeavouring to make yourself master of whatever is recommended to, or required of you.

While the afternoons are short, and but little interval between rising from dinner and assembling for Tea, you may employ that time in walking, or any other recreation.

After Tea, if the studies you are engaged in require it, you will, no doubt perceive the propriety and advantage of returning to them, until the hour of rest.

Rise early, that by habit it may become familiar, agreeable, healthy, and profitable. It may for a while, be irksome to do this, but that will wear off; and the practise will produce a rich harvest forever thereafter; whether in public, or private walks of Life.

Make it an invariable rule to be in place (unless extraordinary circumstances prevent it) at the usual breakfasting, dining, and tea hours. It is not only disagreeable, but it is also very inconvenient, for servants to be running here, and there, and they know not where, to summon you to them, when their duties, and attendance, on the company who are seated, render it improper.

Saturday may be appropriated to riding; to your Gun, and other proper amusements.

Time disposed of in this manner, makes ample provision for exercise and every useful, or necessary recreation; at the same time that the hours allotted for study, *if really applied to it* instead of running up and down stairs, and wasted in conversation with any one who will talk with you, will enable you to make considerable progress in whatever line is marked out for you, and that you may do it, is my sincere wish.

## *To GUSTAVUS SCOTT

Mount Vernon, January 8, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 21st Ulto. from Annapolis, has given me the pleasure of knowing that the State of Maryland continues to act like itself, in granting a loan to carry on the Public buildings in the Federal City. Another object of equal

importance to it, the Navigation of Potomac, lays claim to its attention, and I hope will meet with equal success.

By a notification in the Gazettes, I perceive a general meeting of the Potomac Company is requested in George Town on the second thursday in February. If nothing unforeseen happens to prevent, I expect I shall have the pleasure of seeing you on that occasion. With great esteem etc.

## *To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, January 9, 1798.

Dear Sir: A few days ago, Mr. Herbert handed me your letter of the 30th. Ulto. with the Papers to which it refers; and for the trouble you have had in that business, I offer you, and General Posey also, when you have an opportunity of presenting them, my best thanks for the parts you have respectively acted therein.

Having perused the Papers attentively, and, fortunately, having by me, the original Patents which were granted to Doctr. Skinner, with the original surveys also, which were made for John Sanders, on which the Patents for 2000 and 3000 acres issued to the Doctor, I have been enabled to discover to my entire satisfaction, that I am not at all affected by Mr. Stephens's entry, Survey, or present claim.

It appears by the Surveys (two of them for 2000 Acres each, returned on the same sheet of paper, one dated the 20th and the other the 24th of Feby 1784) that the tract of 3000, and the lower survey of 2000 Acres on rough Creek (the two for which Doctr. Skinner obtained Patents, and is now held by me, in virtue of my purchase from Genl. Lee), are too remote from Mr. Stephens's Survey to be injured by it. How far his claim may affect the upper Survey made for Sanders of 2000 Acres, I know not; nor is it necessary for me to enquire having no interest therein.

But to place the matter in a more perspicuous point of view, I have, from the surveys above mentioned, laid the three tracts down in a connected form, by which it will appear at the first glance, that it is the upper tract *only* (to whom belonging I know not) which can come in contact with Mr. Stephens land: and as that Gentleman is unknown to me, and you have correspondents, or acquaintances in that Country, through any one or another of whom you could inform him of the real state of the case, I would thank you for giving him these explanations that neither *he,* nor *I* may be embarrassed hereafter in the disposition of our Lands.

I have not retd. the Papers which you sent me by Mr. Herbert; but if you should be of opinion that they will be useful in explaining matters more fully to Mr. Stephens, they can be sent to you by the first Post after notice thereof is given to me.

My best regards, in which those of Mrs. Washington and the family are united, are presented to Mrs. Spotswood and all with you, and I am etc.

## *To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

(Confidential)

Mount Vernon, January 9, 1798.

Dear Sir: The attention which the Papers you transmitted, required I should give them, and the form which my land assumed by connecting the two tracts together, evinces most clearly, the necessity there is of my becoming possessed of Andrew Wodrows 300 Acre tract, which is surrounded thereby, if attainable.

If you can, therefore, be instrumental in making the purchase on my behalf, it would render me an acceptable favour. The price (but this under the rose) must not be regarded,

unless in comparing it with that of the circumjacent lands, and other circumstances, it should appear enormous.

I could wish however (if an opportunity offers) that you would talk with, or write to, Major George Lewis on this subject; because, as he was authorised at least two years ago to make this purchase for me, there might be an interference, between your Agent and his, that might serve to enhance the price, and render the purchase more difficult.

If you recollect the width, and kind of Navigation at, and from these lands of mine to the Green River, and have heard how it is from thence to the Ohio, I would thank you for information respecting them: And if you know what sort of land lyes opposite to mine, on the North side of rough Creek; to whom it belongs, and at what price it probably could be bought; I would thank you for information on this head also. To add, by a line from D to G, all the land with in, would give shape, as well as quantity to my lands; and secure the entire command of the Water, of the Above Creek, (if Wodrows land be purchased) for more than Six Miles. With very great esteem etc.[71]

## To SAMUEL WILLIAMS[72]

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 5th of Oct, from Hamburgh, has been received, giving me the first direct and certain account of the arrival of General Lafayette and family at that place; a circumstance highly pleasing to his friends in this country, to none more than myself; and for the prompt advice you have been so obliging as to give me of it, I pray you to accept my sincere thanks.

[71] From a photostat of the original in Cornell University Library.
[72] United States Consul at Hamburg, Germany.

Fortunate indeed was it for him and family that they did not (according to what has been reported to have been their intention), embark in the ship John, which was lost on the coast of New Jersey, and the passengers with great difficulty, and at the utmost peril of their lives, saved. It may be fortunate too on another account; the delay may give a chance to meet his son in Europe; whose ardent desire, fanned by premature accounts of their actual liberation, could no longer be restrained from flying to the expected embraces of his parents in Paris, to which place he was informed they were journeying, through Italy. He left New York the 26th of October, in the ship Clio, for Havre de Grace, and probably would have (at that season) a short passage. I am, etc.[73]

## *To BURWELL BASSETT

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 22d Ulto. came duly to hand. As Mr. Burwell is disinclined to part with his Cook, and Colo. Finnie's[74] is too much incumbered with a family, I must make the best shift I can with those I have; and indeed, with a housekeeper that understands that business, I believe it is best that I should do so.

As you kindly offered to become the purchaser of Corn for me, in case I should need any for my Distillery, I now request the favour of you to procure, and send me (not of the gourd seed kind) a Vessel load, say from five to twelve hundred bushels, so soon as all danger of the River, freezing, is over. I shall be enabled, I expect, to pay for the Corn on delivery; but a month or two after, would suit me better. I had rather the Vessel should have no Corn in it but mine; and I expect the price

[73] From the printed text in the *Historical Magazine* (1860), vol. 4, 179.
[74] Col. William Finnie.

exclusive of freight, will not exceed fifteen shillings pr. barrel, and twelve and six pence would suit my finances much better. Let me hear, as soon as convenient, what is likely to be the result of this application. With great esteem etc.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1798.

Dear Sir: By leaving the enclosed letter to Mr. Kitt (who was my household Steward in Philadelphia) open for your perusal, it supercedes the necessity of my saying more on the subject than to beg your attention to and aid in the measure which is requested therein. Mr. Kitt lives, I believe, at the United States Bank, and if not, Mr. Wolcot, I am persuaded can inform you of the place of his residence.

Pray send a set of strings for Miss Custis's Harpsichord agreeably to the enclosed Memm. under cover to me by the first Post, and at the sametime inform me at what price good German and other Oznabrigs could be bought by the quantity. and that I may not, at any time over draw, or order goods please to let me know how my acct. stands with you. With great esteem etc.

## *To FREDERICK KITT

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1798.

Mr. Kitt: We have never heard of Herculas our Cook since he left this; but little doubt remains in my mind of his having gone to Philadelphia, and may yet be found there, if proper measures were employed to discover (unsuspectedly, so as not to alarm him) where his haunts are.

If you could accomplish this for me, it would render me an acceptable service as I neither have, nor can get a good Cook to hire, and am disinclined to hold another slave by purchase.

If by indirect enquiries of those who know Herculas, you should learn that he is in the City, inform Colo. Clemt. Biddle thereof, and he will, I hope, take proper measures to have him apprehended at the moment one of the Packets for Alexandria is about to Sale, and put him therein, to be conveyed hither; and will pay any expence which may be incurred in the execution of this business; which must be managed with address to give it a chance of Success; for if Herculas was to get the least hint of the design he would elude all your vigilance. I wish you well and am etc.

## *To ALEXANDER WHITE

Mount Vernon, January 11, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 8th has been duly received, and I now write, more for the purpose of acknowledging the receipt of it, than from any sentiment I have to communicate relative to the Public buildings in the Federal City.

You are perfectly acquainted with my sentiments on that subject already, and if not, they may be comprised in a few words, thus: every effort should be made to obtain the means, and every exertion used (in the short time left) to accomplish the end, for which they are obtained. And, if they could be had without applying to Congress, I should prefer it; but, if this is impracticable (of which you are the best judges) then to do it; because there is no alternative, and because no event is more to be deprecated than the arrestation of the buildings, or a limping progress of them this year.

If the answer which the Commissioners expect from the President, should result in your journey to Philadelphia, I shall sincerely wish you all the success your assiduity in, and management of the business will entitle you to. If you should not

go thither, or from Frederick if you do, I shall hope to see you in George Town at the meeting of the Stock holders of the Potomack Navigation, the 8th. of next month, by notification; for I think that business requires serious attention also, and perhaps amendment, or explanation of the licence to a subordinate, or other Company, to open the navigation of the River Shanondoah; having understood that the Resolution entered into at the last General meeting of the Potomack Company, relative to this matter, has not had the effect wch. was expected, or, that in [*sic*] lingers at least. With great esteem etc.

## *To GOVERNOR JAMES WOOD

Mount Vernon, January 12, 1798.

Dear Sir: This letter will be presented to your Excellency by Mr. Lear, President of the Potomack Company, who waits on the Legislature to solicit the loan of a sum of money to enable the Stock holders to proceed with vigour, to the completion of an Enterprise so great, honourable and useful, as is that of laying open the shortest and easiest communication between the Atlantic States and the extensive Country westward of us, on the Waters of Ohio. A communication which will be found not less beneficial than honourable for the States of Virginia and Maryland to encourage.

Mr. Lear has other matters relative to the Falls &ca. to lay before that Honble. body, equally claiming its attention.

Such facility as your Excellency can, with propriety give to these important objects, will not, I persuaded myself, be wanting.

Permit me to introduce Mr. Lear to your notice and civilities, and to assure you of the respect and regard etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, January 12, 1798.

Dear Sir: Permit me to request your care of the enclosed letter to Mr. Williams, our Consul at Hamburgh, in answer to a very polite and civil one informing me of the arrival of Genl. Lafayette and family at that place. Allow me also to ask the favour of you to send me Colo. Monroe's, and Mr. Fauchet's Pamphlets; and if you have leisure (not else) to let me know what the public sentiment respecting them, is. In one of these, or in some other way, I find by a writer in the Richmond Paper, a private letter of mine to Mr. Gouvr. Morris is given to the public. If given fairly, with the cause which produced it, I have no doubt of its operating against the measure it was intended to promote.

As Silver could not be transmitted in a letter, and I had no other small notes, I send two of the Bank of Columbia, to pay for the Pamphlets. Yours always.

## *To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 28th of Decr. with a P. S of the 7th. instt. was delivered to me the 12th by Mr. Lear, with ninety one dollars enclosed therein on A/c of Rent due from Mrs. Beall, together with a statement of the A/c against her by Mr. Veatch.

I ought also, though late, and indeed to my shame for the delay, to acknowledge that your obliging letter of the 26th of Decr. 1796 came safe to my hands; but at a time (during the busy scenes of Congress) when I had no leisure to attend to private business, and laying by for a more convenient moment

it had escaped me altogether until a revision of some papers the other day brought it to light again.

Let me now, my good Sir, request the favour of you alone, or in conjunction with Mr. Veatch, to fix the value of the Tobo. due from Mr. Beall to me in money. In doing wch. permit me to assure you, that you cannot fail in giving *me* satisfaction, as I had rather you should *under* than *over* rate it in *her* case having no disposition to bear hard upon the Widow, but on the contrary to favor her.

It would much oblige me also if Mr. Veatch under your superintendance and concurrence would settle with *all* the *Tenants* up to the close of the last year (1797) and convert (if they have not the Tobacco to pay) the balances of Tobacco into cash at a reasonable rate, making an aggregate sum with other charges in money and reducing the same to specialties (with securities if necessary) that I may start anew from the commencement of the present year.

And as you and he are much better judges than I am, of what would be a reasonable cash rent for the Tenants respectively to pay, I leave it to you also to file what each shall pay for the present year, and until altered (if just for both parties) after a few years have elapsed, and whatever you shall do in the premises I will abide by.

A settlement with, and a specialty from Mr. Jones should also be had. If he has paid all the Tobacco, and Cash which he has received on my A/c he can be at no loss I presume, to produce vouchers for the same and it is necessary that the account with him should be closed.

Mr. Veatch will keep the specialties in his own hands for collection furnishing me with a list thereof and their amount. His commission on these will be the same as if they were not reduced to specialties. With very great esteem etc.

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, January 19, 1798.

My dear Bushrod: Your letter of the 8th instant came to hand opportunely, as Mr. Augustus Woodward (in whose favour the Sheriff of Kanhawa had drawn for the taxes of my lands in that County) was here on his return from Philadelphia, and received the full amount of his draught.

I am perfectly at a loss to know what is meant by the Auditors A/c as coming from "The Sheriff of Greenbrier who says he has returned a tract of land the property of Genl. George Washington Esqr, amounting to 15940 acres for non-payment of the Revenue tax due thereon, for the year 1789. The tax is £35:17:3."

I neither do, or ever did, hold such a tract, and must request the favour of you to investigate this matter; and that you may be enabled to do it with accuracy, I enclose you a list of all the lands I hold in *this State* on the Western waters, with the dates of Patents; to whom granted, for what quantity, and in what counties they are supposed to lye at the time they were surveyed. By which you will perceive, first that I have no such tract in *any* county, and 2d. that no two or more of those, contained in the list, will make the exact quantity of 15940.

The Sheriff, in his draught on me in favour of A. Woodward, does not specify the quantity of Acres I hold on the Kanhawa; but the number of tracts *only,* on which the taxes are due for the years 1791, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 1796: and for 2 tracts *only* on the River Ohio, when there are three tracts on that river; This puts it out of my power to know whether I am justly dealt by, or not; and it would seem by some calculation and figures on a piece of paper (which I return that I am charged for more land than

I ever held there.[75] A small tract of 240 acres between the Representative of Genl. Andrew Lewis and myself, is there inserted also. Pray what is the state of that matter? No tax has ever been demanded of me, therefor, and it may, for ought I know to the contrary, be in jeopardy likewise. It contains the burning spring. Several matters relative to these lands want explanation, and you would oblige me by endeavouring to obtain it, and for this purpose, as it may assist I return all the Papers you sent me.

By comparing them you will find that Sheriff Alderson charged taxes for the years 1791 a 1796, both inclusive, for four tracts on the Kanhawa and two on the Ohio: and that the Sheriff of Greenbrier returns 15940 for non-payment of the Revenue tax, for the year 1789. What becomes of the tax 1790 on all these lands; or was there any? Why return 15940 acres, and not the whole when all were under the same predicament? Why are two tracts on the Ohio charged, and the third not? except it should be in another Cty.[76] The enclosed list contains those on the one, as well as the other River; and if (as I conceive ought to have been the case with the Sheriff, and I suppose is so at the Auditors Office) the number of Acres in each tract, and at what assessed had been inserted, these difficulties might have been removed without giving you the trouble I am about to do in examining the aforesaid Office; but as there is a cloud over the business; as I am as willing to comply with the Laws, as I receive justice in the execution of them. As I wish to have a full understanding of the case, of both, and shall not willingly, nor neglectedly, or knowingly put it in the power of any one to

[75] Washington inserted an asterisk (*) here and noted in the margin: "See under Kanawha land and remarks."

[76] The phrase after the interrogation mark is inserted in the margin by Washington.

deprive me of my property, through any failure on my part, I must beg the favour of you to obtain from the Auditor at your and his leisure, provided I put nothing to hazard by the delay, a complete statement of the taxes *on all the land* mentioned in the list I enclose; the small tract of 587 Acres I had almost forgot, though extremely valuable for its size. With sincere and Affectionate regard, etc.

P. S. Since writing the aforegoing letter, wch as you will readily perceive is done in much haste I find I was mistaken in saying none of the tracts united would make 15940 Acres, those of 10990, 2950 and 2000 do this. I send you $120 to pay the £35 17.3 and 7/. Tax for Lots, though I did not know that any thing was due on the latter. nor do I believe any tax has ever been paid on the 587 acre tract, or others before.

## *LANDS BELONGING TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ON THE WESTERN WATERS IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

Mount Vernon, January 1798.

Great Kanhawa. Fincastle County

10990 Acrs. Near the mouth thereof. Granted by Letters Patent to George Washington the 15th. day of December 1772: and confirmed after the Revolution, by other letters Patent the 6th. of July 1784, in consequence of a friendly Petition for the same, by Burwell Bassett Esqr. for the non-performance of the Act requiring certain improvements

7276 acs. Higher up the Kanhawa. Granted to George Washington and George Muse[77] as above, on the 1st. day of Decr. 1773; and said to lye in the County of Botetourt.

2950 acs. Opposite the mouth of Cole River, and still higher up the Kanhawa, and sd. to be in Greenbrier County. Granted the 12th. day of April 1784 to G: Washington

2000 Acs. On the Fork between Ohio River and Kanhawa in the above county of Greenbrier; granted to Geo: Washington 12th. Aprl. 1784

Total 23,216

Besides the above mentioned tracts, there is a small tract of (I believe) 240 acres Granted (the date of the Patent I know not) to Genl. Andrew Lewis and myself, containing the burning Spring, on or near the Kanhawa River in Greenbrier County.

On the Ohio River. Botetourt County

2314 Acres The first large bottom below the little Kanhawa. Granted by letters Patent to George Washington the 15th. Decr. 1772. And re-granted after a friendly Petition of Burwell Bassett Esqr. for non-compliance with the Act of Improvement the 6th. of July 1784.

2448 Acs. Fourth large bottom of the Ohio below the mouth of the little Kanhawa, and about 16 miles below the above granted to Geo: Washington 15th. Decr. 1772, and re-granted as above 6th. July 1784.

[77] "Muse's moiety conveyed to Washington afterwards." This is a marginal note by Washington.

4298 Acrs. Fifth large bottom below the Mo. of little Kanhawa, on the Ohio, and just above the Great Bend Granted, and regranted to Geo Washington on the days and years above mentioned.

Total 9157

587 Acs. All said to lye in the County of Bottetourt About 15 miles below Wheling in the County of [78] formerly Augusta. Granted George Washington by Patent bearing date the 30th. Oct 1784.[79]

## *To JAMES ROSS

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 12th Instt. has been duly received; and an Order from the Treasury of the United States and the Collector of the Port of Alexandria for $1,961.30 has also been received; a receipt for which (for your satisfaction, or that of Colo. Shreve) is herein enclosed; with my acknowledgments, and thanks for your kindness in negociating this business for me. The delay, occasioned by the indisposition of Mrs. Ross, has been attended with no inconvenience to me; and on her happy recovery from it, I congratulate you, and her, sincerely.

Colo. Shreve's Bond being in your possession, it is not in my power to endorse the above payment of $1961.30 thereon: but Colo. Ritchie's, which I herewith enclose for the purpose of depositing the same in the Bank of Pennsylvania, (that the Instalments may be collected agreeably to the tenor thereof) has

[78] Left blank in the manuscript.

[79] This description of these lands, as noted, were inclosed in the letter to Bushrod Washington, Jan. 19, 1798.

the payment which was made inserted on the back. By placing both Bonds in that Bank, and transmitting me its statement, you will add to the obligations you have already confered on me in this business. Having made an important contract (if the person with whom it is made can fulfil his part) for all the lands I hold On the Great Kanhawa; which are more than half I possess on the Western Waters; I have become less inclined than before, to lay the residue off into lots for the purpose of retailing them; conceiving, however advantageous it might prove in the end, my immediate purposes would not be answered thereby: while expence, trouble, and probable imposition unless a person of known integrity as well as activity could be engaged as an Agent, would be the inevitable result.

Could I dispose of the three tracts which I hold on the River Ohio (between the mouths of the little and Great Kanhawa, on the terms my lands on the latter are Let. and my other lands in the Northwestern territory, composed, on each side of the River, of *three* tracts, containing aggregately 9,157 Acres on the Ohio (exclusive of what is called the round bottom, of 587 acres) and 3,051 acres on the little Miami, not more than ten or a dozen miles from Cincinnati. I say, if I could get these lands off my hands on similar terms with those of the Kanhawa, my views would be completely answered. These, I shall take the liberty of mentioning to you (as it would seem you are frequently troubled with enquiries relative to my Western Lands) although I do not expect a like offer will be suggested to you in my behalf.

The four tracts of Land which I held on the Great Kanhawa, amount to 23,216 Acres: these I have leased for 30 years, at the expiration of which, by doubling the Rents, thence forward, they are engaged for 99 years more; for the first yr. (1798) the Rent is to be $5,000; for the 2d. $8,000 and thence to the

completion of the 30 years, the Rent is to be equal to the interest of eight dollars an Acre, upon the aggregate quantity of 23,216 Acres; with the priviledge at the end of Six years from the commencement of the Lease (the 1st of the present month) to purchase the fee simple at the price of two hundred thousand dollars; paid *in* four years, $50,000 annually.

The Rents for the first six years are secured (besides the usual mode of Distress and recovery) by a Deed of trust, for a considerable landed property; to be sold for ready money if I should be inclined to resort to it for payment thereof; and the writings are so well drawn, I believe, as to save me against every contingent that can happen, except tying my hands against any other disposition of the lands untill the inability of the Lessee to perform the Covenants of the Lease, are clearly ascertained.

The person with whom this agreement is entered into, lives in the county adjoining the Land, is perfectly well acquainted with all the land; and seems to be morally certain of stocking it with tenants (which he is authorised to do) immediately. That he is a Speculator; I need not add; but he must be a fool as well as a Speculator, if he does not see his way tolerably clear to fulfil the bargain on his part. His mind (he acknowledges) is made up for loss in the outset, but he looks forward to ample compensation in the result. His grand object is apparent to me, without any confession thereof on his part; Knowing the quality, situation, and value of the Land; he wanted, but for lack of means, was unable to become, at this time, the purchaser in fee; and therefore he agreed to pay a Rent equivalent to the interest of what would have been the purchase money, had he taken the whole quantity, viz, eight dollars pr. acre. His interest (and all his exertions now) coincide with mine to plant the land with settlers; which, admitting he should be unable to comply with the contract in all its parts, will render

the property more valuable on account of the improvements, to me.

I should not, my good Sir, have given you the trouble of all this detail respecting my concerns, at a time when I know your head and hands must be engaged in National matters of the utmost importance to our country, but from a consideration, if further enquiries should be made of you, of my intentions respecting the lands On the Ohio, between the Kanhawas, and of those No. Wt. of that River, that you may be enabled to say what I have done and am willing to do. For the round bottom alone an offer of eight dollars an Acre has been refused already. The quantity in this Survey, is less than in either of the others on that River, or on the Miami; but whether the quality of it is much, if any better, I am not sufficiently acquainted with them to pronounce.

If Mrs. Ross is with you in Philadelphia, I pray you to present me to her in respectful terms. And at all times be assured of the sincere esteem, and affectionate regard, etc.

## *To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1798.

Dear Sir: Washington leaves this today, on a visit to Hope Park, which will afford you an opportunity to examine the progress he has made in the studies he was directed to pursue.

I can, and I believe do, keep him in his room a certain portion of the 24 hours, but it will be impossible for me to make him attend to his Books, if inclination, on his part, is wanting; nor while I am out, if he chuses to be so too, is it in my power to prevent it. I will not say this is the case, nor will I run the hazard of doing him injustice by saying he does not apply, as he ought, to what has been prescribed; but no risk will be run,

and candour requires I declare it as my opinion, that he will not derive much benefit in any course which can be marked out for him at this place, without an *able* Preceptor always with him, nor then, for reasons, which do not require to be detailed.

What is best to be done with him, I know not. My opinion always has been that the University in Massachusetts[80] would have been the most eligable Seminary to have sent him to, 1st, because it is on a larger Scale than any other; and 2nd, because I believe that the habits of the youth there, whether from the discipline of the School. or from the greater attention of the People, generally, to morals and a more regular course of life, are less prone to dissipation and debauchery than they are at the Colleges South of it. It may be asked, if this was my opinion, why did I not send him there? the answer is as short, as to me it was weighty; being the only male of his family and knowing (although it would have been submitted to) that it would have proved a heart rending stroke to have him at that distance. I was disposed to try a nearer Seminary, of good repute; which from some cause, or combinations of causes, has not, after the experiment of a year, been found to answer the end that was contemplated. Whether to send him there *now,* or indeed to any other public School, is at least problematical, and to suffer him to mispend his time at this place, will be disgraceful to himself and me.

If I was to propose to him, to go to the University at Cambridge (in Massachusetts) he might, as has been usual for him on like occasions, say he would go whereever I chose to send him; but if he should go contrary to his inclination, and without a disposition to apply his time properly, an expense without any benefit would result from the measure. Knowing how much I have been disappointed, and my mind disturbed by his

[80] Harvard.

conduct, he would not, I am sure, make a candid disclosure of his sentiments to me on this or any other plan I might propose for the completion of his education; for which reason I would pray that you (or perhaps Mrs. Stuart cd. succeed better than any other) would draw [mutilated] and explicit disclosure [mutilated] wishes and views are: for if they are absolutely fixed, an attempt to counteract them by absolute controul would be as idle as the endeavour to stop a rivulet that is constantly running. Its progress while mound upon mound is erected, may be arrested; but this must have an end, and everything would be swept with the torrent.

The more I think of his entering at William and Mary, (unless he could be placed in the Bishop's family) the more doubtful I am of its utility, on many accounts; which had better be the subject of oral communications than by letter. I shall wish to hear from you on the subject of this letter. On occasion of severe reprimand, I found it necessary to give Washington sometime ago, I received the enclosed from him. I have little doubt of his meaning well, but he has not resolution, or exertion enough to act well. Our best wishes attend Mrs. Stuart and the family, I am, etc.[81]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 12th. instant enclosing one from Mr. Ross, and the Treasurers draught on Colo. Fitzgerald for $1,961.30, came duly to hand; and for your kindness in thus

[81] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of W. S. and Cornelia Johns Grice, of Norfolk, Va.

In the *Washington Papers*, under date of Jan. 24, 1798, is a letter of thanks from the Rev. James Muir, William Herbert, Samuel Craig, and John Dundas, of Alexandria, Va., and indorsed by Washington: "A Comee. for Distributing donatn. to the Poor." Accompanying this is a list of the names and the amounts distributed.

accomodating me with the Order, in lieu of the like sum received from Mr. Ross on my account, I feel much obliged.

In the enclosed letter which I have taken the liberty of putting under cover to you (that I may be certain of its having been presented to Mr. Ross, as there is a Bond to a pretty considerable amount therein) contains a receipt for the money which had been paid him for my use by Colo. Shreve.

It is somewhat singular that the Government should have received no advices from our Envoys at Paris since their arrival there, about the 20th. of September, when accounts are detailed from thence as late as the middle of November. It is as necessary sometimes to be acquainted with the worst, as to know the best that can happen in matters of moment; and where facts cannot be narrated, to substitute conjecture; declaring it to be such. I cannot, even under the unpleasant aspect of things, believe the French Government mean to enter into a War with this Country; but I can, satisfactorily to my own mind, account for Its proceeding the length it has. I may be mistaken however. It is intoxicated with success, and when that is the case, nothing is too absurd, or unjust to be encountered.

Mr. Monroe, I am told, appears in voluminous work![82] What is said of it? A writer under the signature of Scipio,[83] will, I conceive, work him pretty well. Who is Scipio? I am fishing for no secrets, but if the Author *is* known, or conjectured, on *good ground,* I should like to know who he is. From whence proceeds the apparent harmony, perhaps it would be more correct to say calm, in Congress? is it for want of matter to ferment the passions, or because a change of sentiment (wch. I cannot flatter myself is the case) has taken place in the minds of the opposition members?

[82] See remarks on Monroe's *View of the Conduct of the Executive of the United States,* March, 1798.

[83] Alexander Hamilton.

I asked your opinion, (on a small bit of paper, enclosed in my last)[84] with respect to a particular character, whose name was then mentioned; but no answer was given in your last. If your silence proceeds from an unwillingness to touch on the subject, I drop it. If because it did not appear before you at the time of writing, and was forgot, I renew it.[85] At all times, you will find me your sincere friend and Affectionate Servant.

P. S. Mrs. Washington and Nelly Custis unite with me in every good wish for Mrs. Wolcott. [C.H.S.]

## *To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, January 25, 1798.

Dear Sir: The period for payment of the second Instalment of your Bond is past, and the first Instalment is only partially complied with. Mr. Simms note, endorsed by you for $1000, is protested at the Bank, where it was deposited for collection.

It, Cannot be more unpleasant for you to hear, than for me to remind you of these things, but it is necessary for me to do so, and to express a hope that some vigorous measures are in train to fulfil your engagement with me. My own want requires it. For depending upon this fund, and induced thereto by my manager's statement of the utility of the measure, I have encountered a considerable expence in building a large Distillery (at my Mill) providing Stills, &ca. &ca.; and shall be unable to carry it on without cash to purchase the Grain that is requisite for this purpose. Let me entreat you to believe, that

[84] Of Dec. 17, 1797, *q. v.*

[85] Wolcott replied (January 30), in which he wrote that he felt "much chagrin that I did not reply to your private Note: the fact is, that I destroyed it, after perusal and forgot the contents at the time I wrote: Mr. Biddles credit is as good as it has ever been; the misfortunes of the times have rendered his business more profitable than usual: he is understood to possess a handsome property." Wolcott's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

at the time I entered into the contract with you for the property I held in the Dismal Swamp, I had no conception of such disappointments, and that it is a mode of dealing to which I am not accustomed.

If the purchase money for it, is to be paid in small driblets, instead of annual Instalments, the value of it will, in a manner, be lost to me: Yet as I must purchase Corn and Rye, or let my Distillery (now it is erected) stand idle, I will receive of either, and allow the *Cash* price for what you will deliver my landing, Or, if you think this is too indefinite, I will give the price pr. Barrel or Bushel that Mr. Burwell Bassett purchases for me at, being authorised to send me up a Vessel load. In short I am disposed to accomodate you in any reasonable manner I can, although nothing would answer my purposes like money, as the business would then be wholly in my own hands, and I should know my *ground*.

If you are able, and are inclined to furnish me with Corn, or Rye, or both, say with *precision* what quantity, and certainty by what time. And I pray you not to deceive me by erroneous calculations, either as to the quantity or time of delivery. If you have neither for sale, I beg to be informed thereof as soon as possible, as I must be supplied in some manner or another. With great regard etc.

## *To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, January 26, 1798.

Dear Sir: The return of your brother Howel, affords me a direct and safe opportunity of enquiring whether any, and if any, what money you have of mine in your hands? What are your prospects of collecting the past years Rents, *seasonably*, and when I may look for the receipt of them?

I have been induced, by the experience and advice of my Manager, Mr. Anderson, to erect a large Distillery at my Mill; and have supplied it with five Stills, Boilers &ca. which, with the (Stone) House, has cost me a considerable Sum already, but I find these expenditures are but a small part of the advances I must make before I shall receive any return for them, having all my Grain yet to buy to carry on the business. To accomplish this, all my resources are needed, and I beg you to exert yourself in the collection of my Rents, and that you would let me know, upon the best data you can form an opinion, what dependence I may place on you; not only as to the amount of the sum, but also as to the period of its payment, that I may regulate matters accordingly.

As a Rental, according to former Instructions, should be annually exhibited, in order to show, not only what has been received, but the arrearages, if any at the sametime, in one view, that by a referrence thereto I can always see the state and condition of each tenement. I must now add, as a further Instruction, that all casualties, such as the exchanging of Tenants, Increase, or decrease of Rents, etc. etc., may be specifically noted at the foot of the Rental; Which is considered always as a kind of Record of the Collectors proceedings. Columns in which, for the size of the tenements, Sums paid, and the arrearages due, you know are necessary.

Mrs. W. and Nelly Custis unites in best wishes with Your etc.

## *To WINTHROP SARGENT[86]

Mount Vernon, January 27, 1798.

Dear Sir: A few days since a Mr. Josh. Massey said to be a Surveyor of the North Western Territory passed through

[86] Secretary of the Northwest Territory.

Alexandria on his way to Philadelphia, and there said to a Gentleman, without assigning reasons or having them asked, that I should lose my lands on the little Miami in that Country.

Never having heard of any claim to it, or being able to conjecture on what ground it can be jeopardised, I take the liberty of troubling you with this address: requesting the favour of you as the land lyes in the vicinity of Cincinnati, to make enquiry into the matter and to inform me of the result.

I hold 3,051 acres in three seperate tracts, under a Military claim. the first containing 839 Acres was surveyed the 28th of Decr 1787. and lies within a mile of the River Ohio. the second is about seven miles up the little Miami and contains by the Survey thereof, made the 26th of May 1788 Nine hundred and 77 Acres, and the third about three miles higher up the Miami was Surveyed the day following i e. the 27th of May for 1235 Acres: And letters Patent were granted by the Commonwealth of Virginia under the hand and Seal of the then Governor, Beverly Randolph for the same bearing date all the first day of Decr. 1780. The number of the Warrants and on what occasion granted was recited in the Deeds: but I presume for the mere purpose of an enquiry it is unnecessary to be more particular at present, until I learn upon what ground my right is assailed, or at what tribunal I am to defend that Right; for until the Report (as coming from Massey) was made to me, I had no suspicion of being disturbed in the property.

Under persuasion that you will oblige me in this request, I shall make no apology for giving you the trouble to make the enquiry. but will pray for your Answer as soon as convenient. With great esteem etc.[87]

[87] The press copy is badly faded and the text of this letter is checked by the "Letter Book" copy.

## *To GEORGE THACHER[88]

Mount Vernon, January 27, 1798.

Sir: It is not long since the Papers herewith sent have been in my possession, altho' from the date they bear, one would be led to think otherwise.

If the statements are just, the case merits attention; and as Mr. Goodwin has mistaken the road by which the application (if redress can be afforded) is to be made, I have taken the liberty of transmitting them to you, on the supposition that he is a resident in the District you represent. I wish you an agreeable and harmonious Session, and am etc.

## *To RUFUS PUTNAM

Mount Vernon, January 28, 1798.

Dear Sir: The letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, I had written to Colo. Sargant; but it having occurred to me since, that if my right to the Lands therein mentioned should be called in question, or any ungenerous advantage attempted to be taken from any defect, or informality in my title, of which, and the ground on which it is questioned I am entirely in the dark, that it must, in some shape or another come before you as Surveyor General of that Territory. Should this be the case, I not only crave the same favour of you that I have done of Colo. Sargent but pray that any interference with my right may be arrested until matters can be fully explained.

For the Right, purchased many years ago; for looking out the Land and making the locations; and for Surveying, and other incidental expences, I have already paid *fully* what was supposed to be the value of the land at the time I obtained it.

[88] Member of Congress from Massachusetts.

It would be not a little hard, not to say unjust, to have it taken from me now; even admitting (which I do not, because I am not knowing to it) that there may have been some faupas in the proceedings on my behalf.

If you have heard, or should come to the knowledge of this attempt you would oblige me much by giving me information thereof, and on what plea I am to be disturbed in property of which I have possessed so many years. With very great esteem, etc.[89]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, January 28, 1798.

Dear Sir: Knowing that the War Office has an Agency in the Western Lands, I take the liberty of putting the enclosed letters to General Putnam and Colo. Sargent under cover to you, open. By doing so, it supercedes the necessity of a repetition of what is therein mentioned. Another reason for giving you this trouble, is, that if Mr. Massey is a Surveyor in the Northwestern Territory, it is highly probable that his business in Philadelphia is with your Office. In which case, let me pray you to obtain what information he can give, respecting the claim upon my land, and transmit the same to me; and to request, after sealing my letters to the Gentlemen above mentioned, that you would be so kind as to put them into the safest channel of conveyance, that is afforded from Philadelphia.

What means this calm, and apparent harmony in the Representative body?[90] Is it because no collisive subject has come on? or does it proceed from a change of sentiment in the opposition

[89] The original of this letter is in Marietta College, Ohio.

[90] McHenry replied (February 1): "The calm in the house of Representatives has been lately interrupted by an attempt to trench upon the power of the President relative to foreign intercourse and more recently by one member spitting in the face of another. Whether this affair has more meaning than appears I cannot say but the spitter [Matthew] Leon [Lyon, of Vermont] is a great beast."

members? Are there no accounts yet *from* our Envoys? If not, to what is their silence attributed, when the News Papers are filled with accounts *of* them, as late as the middle of November, from Paris; where they must have been at least six weeks?

What, as far as it can be guessed at, is the public sentiment relative to Monroe's voluminous work? which I have not yet seen, but have sent for it. And what of Fauchet's?[91] Another elaborate work, I presume, will appear soon, from the late Commissioner of the Revenue;[92] the cause of whose dismission has never (that I have seen) been hinted in the Gazettes.[93]

What has been, or is it supposed will be done by the house of Representatives in consequence of the extraordinary application which was made to them on that occasion, by the Ex-Commissioners.[94]

I have exhibited a long string of questions, but if you have not leisure, or if any of them are embarrassing, I require no answer to them. Mrs. Washington and Nelly Custis unite with me, in every good wish for Mrs. McHenry, yourself and family, and I am always, and Affectionately Yours.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 29, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th. has been received, and the Music Strings[95] came safe.

If you conceive any advantage will result from a delay in the sale of the old Coach, until the Spring, it will be quite

[91] McHenry stated, in his letter of February 1: "Monroe's memoir has been little read and has made no converts to his party. He has I think sunk in the public opinion. Fauchet's publication has done no harm, and has been as little successful as Monroes." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[92] Tench Coxe.

[93] President Adams had removed him from office in December, 1797.

[94] To France. McHenry's letter (February 1) stated: "Not one word direct from our commissioners."

[95] For Nelly Custis's harpsichord.

agreeable to me that it should be postponed. To avoid the accumalating expence of Ho. room, and the injury such articles sustain by lying, and often by neglect and tossing about was my inducement to the disposal of it *now*. But it rests with *you* to chuse the time.

If the Plateaux are not sold, nor a probability of getting nearly what they cost, say currency for Sterling, I request that they may be carefully packed up and sent to me, together with the two smallest of the large groups of Porcelain, and the twelve single images (Arts and Sciences) with which my Table, on Public days, was ornamented. The large group (Apollo instructing the Shepherds) and the two Vases, may be sold for what ever they will fetch. Great care, by a skilful hand, must be used in packing the Porclain, or all the delicate and finer parts will be broken off.

I have not yet heard (although it may have happened) of Ellwoods arrival at Alexandria. As Dobson's bill is not exhibited, I am unapprized of what is charged in it, or of what is coming from him. My wish was, and still is, to have the second copy of all the Volumes (as far as published, intended for my own use) of the Encyclopedia, to be neatly bound and sent to me, the last volume excepted, which he will retain to bind the remainder by (if more are yet to come) that all may be alike. If this is not the case, pray let it be so as soon as possible, and he shall receive the cost without delay.

I must again trouble you in forwarding the enclosed (after sealing) to Mr. Kitt, and will say now what I did not do on this subject in my former letter, and that is, that if you have any dereliction to the business, be frank in declarg. it.

Inclosed is a letter, and receipt of Doctr. Barton's[96] for Sixty dollars which I pray you to receive, *if you can,* and place to my

[96] Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton. He was professor of natural history and botany, University of Pennsylvania.

credit, but I inform you before hand, that you will never get a copper of it if it depends upon *him alone*. You will perceive by the letter, that the money borrowed, was, *punctually,* to be returned in a month. After waiting near, or quite a year, he was applied to, and then, I was, *assuredly,* to have it in two or three days; after as many months waiting, without hearing a tittle from him applications were again made and the same answers have been received and so it went on until the Scenes of my Public life were closed and he was informed that I was desirous of adjusting all my pecuniary matters in Philadelphia before I left it when the most solemn assurance (without any intention I am persuaded to fulfil it) were given that the money should be instantly paid.

It is necessary for me to observe here that Doctr. Barton is an entire stranger to me. Never, to my knowledge, or recollection, did I ever exchange a word with him in my life, nor should I know if I was to see him. I did by him (supposing from his connections that he was a man of honour) as I had done by many others, although I found it not a little difficult to make *all my receipts* in addition to my compensation, keep pace with my expenditures, that is, to advance a little money (not on Usury) for immediate purposes.

It is not my wish (nor will I) for so trifling a sum, have my name called in a Court of Justice; but (and as his promises alone you may be assured will deceive you) I would suggest the expediency of your obtaining his note, with security, for payment of the nett sum of Sixty dollars, (and I want no more lest it should be conceived that interested motives induced the loan) and then, at the expiration of whatever credit is given, call upon that Security if the money is not punctually paid by Barton. This, if the latter has credit to obtain the former he cannot object to. With esteem etc.

PS. If you could send me samples of some of the best German Oznabrgs. with the prices marked thereon, by the Ell, it would enable me to decide, whether to purchase in Philadelphia or Alexandria. I may, probably, require a thousand Ells.

In some of the late Philadelphia Gazettes I have seen Advertised a number of Passengers from Hamburgh, who are to make their own contracts. Among these it is said their are Clerks in different languages. If one could be had who is competent in English; who is master of a fair hand in English character; and who has testimonials as to his sobriety, morals and general good character, such in short as would satisfy you, were you in want of such a Person, I should be glad to contract with him on as long terms as could be obtained, having a great deal of copying to do. And if a complete Country blacksmith, One who knows how to make Ploughs, and all other impliments for a farm would be acceptable also.

## *To FREDERICK KITT

Mount Vernon, January 29, 1798.

Mr. Kitt: Your letter of the 15th instant has been duly received, and we were glad to hear that you and Mrs. Kitt were well, and had escaped the Malady with which the City has been afflicted. But sorry to be informed that two, who had been my domestics, had fallen victims to it.

Continue your enquiries, I pray you, after Herculas; and if you should find it necessary, hire some one who is most likely to be acquainted with his haunts, to trace them out; and if you should learn of him, advise with Colo. Biddle on the most effectual mode of securing him until he can be put on board one of the Packets for Alexandria with a strict charge to the Master not to give him an opportunity of escaping. Whatever cost shall attend this business Colo. Biddle will pay.

Mrs. Washington would very gladly have employed Mr. Brown, if she had known in time that he would have come hither; but having lately got a housekeeper who understands Cookery, two would be more than necessary. We should like to know however, on what terms Mr. Brown would come, if an occasion hereafter should make it necessary to enquire after such a character.

I am glad to hear you have a birth at the Bank. I hope it is such an one, as will enable you to live comfortably. My advice to you, is so to conduct yourself in it, as to merit the esteem and good will of all those with whom you may have business to transact; and above all things, if you have any thing to do with the money, to let your care and deligence in handling of it, be engaged by nothing but your integrity. I wish you well and am etc.

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, January 30, 1798.

My dear Bushrod: I had heard with much concern, before your letter of the 21st instant was received, of your illness; and congratulate you on your recovery. Be careful in guarding against a relapse, by taking cold.

I hope my letter of the 19th of this month got safe to your hands (by the Post); contained therein, were $120 to enable you to do the needful relative to the taxes of my Western Lands; accompanied by some statements which might assist in the investigation of that business.

As Genl. Lees Deed to me was not recorded in the time prescribed by Law; what, if it is thereby rendered invalid, is necessary to be done to Secure my right to the Land therein conveyed?

The family here, are all well, and unite in every good wish for your perfect recovery and in best regards for Mrs. Washington. With Your Affecte. Uncle.

## *To ALBIN RAWLINS

Mount Vernon, January 31, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 26th instant came to my hands yesterday.

There has been some misconception of the application from General Spotswood to your Brother, for it was not a person to be employed in writing and riding he was desired to enquire after but for a Housekeeper, or, if a housekeeper could not be had, than for a man who was qualified for the Office of Butler; who could set out a Table, attend at the side board, and being in the capacity of a head Servant in the family would attend to, and make all the others do their duty properly. In a word to answer all the purposes of a housekeeper and to supercede the necessity of employing one. If any other idea was embibed from what General Spotswood said, or wrote, It has proceeded, as I have said above, from misconception.

It is sometime since I have been provided with a housekeeper; of course my enquiries on that head have ceased. I have, it is true, some business to do in the way you speak of particularly writing; and if, in order to save myself the trouble of doing it, I could engage a single man competent thereto on very moderate wages; One who would confine himself closely; be content to eat with, and live in the same manner the Housekeeper does, having a room to himself to write in, and another to lodge in, over the same I would employ one, and if that mode of living, and manner of treatment would comport with your

views; Say, in one word, what is the lowest wages you would agree to take *by the year?* and you shall receive a decisive answer by the return of the Post. I am etc.

## *OBSERVATIONS IN GOING OVER MR. ANDERSON'S ACCOUNTS

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1798.

1. That there is no Cash A/c raised in his Ledger, which is as essential as any other A/c; because, in a greater or less degree, it is the foundation of all others, or nearly allied to them: and is the one from whence the balance of the receipts and expenditures of money is to appear. And if a column in this a/c be instituted for correspondent numerical numbers therein, with those on the back of the Vouchers, a reference to, and a comparison of, the charge and voucher can be made in a moment, and with great ease.

2. If it stands charged in the Bank Book (for want of which I cannot speak with decision) you have given me no credit for my order (which is entered on my minutes) for $200 on the Bank of Alexandria, the 28th of Jany. 1797.

3. In the A/c raised for the Stud horse (Traveller) the gross amount, as appears thereby (exclusive of my own Mares) is £25.16. when by the Cash A/c £11.9.0 only has been received. It is presumed that this difference is yet due; and if so, it only serves to prove in a strong degree, the ineligibility of suffering Mares or Jennies to be taken away before the money is paid; unless it be by those from whom it is *known* no difficulty or trouble will be met with in the Collection thereafter.

4. I have discovered no credit for £1.11.3 received from A. Jameson.

5. I have found no Voucher for a charge, paid I: V. Thomas of £2.7.6, nor for £7.7.9 paid John Violet, except in their a/c without receipts.

6 The Dogue run A/c of wheat delivered, and the Mill A/c of Wheat received from Dogue run, do not agree. The same disagreement also appears between the Mill, and the other Farms.

7 What is meant in Mansion house A/c by sundries as pr. Waste Book?

8 The Fish A/c, Spinning A/c. Blacksmith and Shoemakers, are not so stated as to shew with exactitude the advantage of either. The hire of the persons employed in each of those businesses ought to have been charged. And with respect to the Fish A/c the wear and tare of the Seins ought also to come in as part of the annual cost. And with regard to the Store A/c, there is scarsely any information to be drawn from it: whereas, among other things, it was my earnest wish to have known, with precision, every thing that went from thence to the Distillery; that, when added to the Articles of every sort and kind (purchased expressly for the erection, and establishment of that work) I might, when to these were also added the timber and Stone, taken from my own Premises; The Carpenters, Masons, Bricklayers; Ditchers; and Labourers wages; Carting, &ca., know what the out fit has cost me. Unless these matters are taken into A/c the calculation of the profit must prove falacious.

8. [*sic*] Explanations, relative to the observations here made, will render the A/c as clear as they appear to be fair. But I must, notwithstanding, desire that a Cash A/c and all external Accounts, may, hence forward, be rendered quarterly; as directed in a former letter. Internal A/cs, by which I mean those appertaining to the Mansion house, Farms, Mill, Distillery, &ca. &ca.

will not be required, and indeed cannot be rendered more than at the close of every year.

I will close these observations with an earnest request that nothing may be purchased in future that can well be done without: and when purchased, that every possible care and attention may be paid to the use and care of them: for it would be uncandid not to add, that there has been a profusion of Articles had from Shops and Trades people; In a word, that my Estate is unable to bear it; and that nothing but the money arising from the Sales of land, to a very considerable amount, would have enabled me to meet such accumulated expences.

## *To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, February 6, 1798.

Mr. Anderson: It would seem by the reply you handed to me yesterday, in explanation of the observations I had made, in going over your A/cs that you were hurt by the remarks.

The notes were not taken with that view, and you were told so in explicit terms. On the contrary I remarked that the A/cs were perfectly fair, and only required explanation in one or two instances to make them clear.

Not having the Bank book (for it was in your possession at the time) I could only refer to my own Cash Memorandums for the $200 drawn on the Bank of Alexandria in Jany. last. When I saw the Book, and heard your explanation of that, and the other matters which had been noted I told you more than once, and in strong terms, that I was fully satisfied.

I find no complaint exhibited in the observations; nor do I perceive a single thing required in them, that is repugnant to, or not warranted by our Agreement. I little expected then, to see among your explanations, a hint so early given, of leaving

the business at the close of the present year; after having induced me to encounter a very serious expence in erecting a Distillery of which I had no knowledge, nor the smallest intention to do, depending on your experience and judgment to carry it on. But do as you please in this matter; I never did, nor never shall wish to retain any person in my employ contrary to their inclination.

I observed, it is true, that the expences of last year were very great. You had done the same several times before, to me; and I urged the necessity of retrenchment where it was practicable, and care where it was not.

You will recollect that before you received *my* Observations, or I *your* explanations, that I suggested the idea, and even asked your aid to procure from Scotland a young man who could ease both you and me of much writing. And you will recollect also that it was to save you from those frequent rides to, and consequent expences in Alexandria, that I proposed engaging the most respectable Retail dealer to supply me from his own, or provide from other Stores, with such articles as I wanted, on written Orders.

The business of Distilling, last year was, it must be confessed, an uncontemplated, and of course an extra: business; but for what purpose the Dairy, and saving of Clover Seed are mentioned I know not. If saving one's own Seed (where it will ripen) is not the duty of a farmer, I am yet to learn the duties of one.

The moment it was resolved to establish a Distillery upon the Plan it now is, I declared my entire approbation that it should be under the immediate care of your Son John, and my willingness at the sametime to allow him whatever you thought reasonable, or others received. And this I repeat.

Calling for a quarterly Cash A/c proceeded from no distrust of their not being fairly renderd at the end of the year. but for mutual convenience, and also that I might see how matters were going on.

If a Cash A/c was exhibited on a loose sheet, it has escaped me. I recollect nothing of it. I am willing to receive the Vouchers, and to certify my approbation of the A/cs in the fullest manner. I should have done it at the foot of the Cash A/c if it had been Posted; or I would have done it before (and am ready to do it now) in the seperate Book, had I not understood *from you* that it was intended to be entered therein. And it is no new thing for me to declare that I never harboured the most distant suspicion of your applying any thing from the Store, or elsewhere to your own use, that you were not justly entitled to. In a word, you have had it from under my hand before, and I repeat it again, that I have been perfectly well satisfied with your conduct at the same time that I have and must continue to do so, [illegible] my business [illegible] and attentions to particular matters, as I expected to [illegible] I have done. I think in a friendly manner. I wish you well, and am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, February 6, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 20th and 27th. Ulto. have been duly received; and the Pamphlets, with Colo. Monroe's *View,* came safe.

If no direct opportunity to Alexandria should present itself soon, by which the works of Mr. Nancrede could be sent with convenience and without liability to damage, I would thank you for putting them (carefully wrapped up) into the hands of Colo. Biddle, who is the Agent employed by me for transacting

the small matters I have to do in Philadelphia; and who, generally, sends such things as I require, by the Packets to Alexandria.

I am sensible of the honor done me by Mr. Nancrede[97] in the dedication of this work to me, and for his politeness in sending it; and shall, as soon as I know on what terms the *Studies of Nature* are offered, make him my acknowledgement accordingly.

I have not had leisure, yet, to look into Monroe's *View,* nor to read more than the first numbers of Scipio although I have them to the 15th. inclusive. Postponing the latter until I had obtained the former.

Notwithstanding there existed no doubt in my mind that the charge exhibited against you in the *Aurora* was a malignant falsehood yet, satisfied as I am of the *motive,* and the *end* intended to be answered *by the publication,* I have read with much gratification your explicit disavowal of its application. But the more the views of those who are opposed to the measures of our Government are developed, the less surprised I am at the attempt and the means, cowardly, illiberal and assasin like, which are used to subvert it; and to destroy all confidence in those who are entrusted with the Administration thereof. Among these, is to be classed an assertion, in the Pamphlet written by Mr. Fauchet in these words "It is the general opinion that Mr. Talon came to Philadelphia on a confidential mission from the Pretender" to Genl. Washington. "He was admitted to a very particular audience with the President before the arrival of Mr. Genet at Philadelphia." What the general *opinion* of the French party might have been is not for me to say, but I pronounce the latter part of the quotation to be an impudent, a wicked, and groundless assertion; and accordingly

[97] Paul Joseph Guérard de Nancrede, who published, in Boston in 1792, *L'Abeille François.*

authorise any and every person who chuses to be at the trouble of doing it, to contradict it in the most unqualified terms. With Mr. Talon I had no acquaintance. If he ever was in my company it must have been in the drawing room (or at what was called the Levies) on company days. Whether I ever exchanged a word with him during the time of his stay in this Country, is more than my memory at this time, is able to decide. If his arrival in it was posterior to the proscription, or cloud which hovered of [*sic*] such characters, the probability is that he never did; be this however as it may; I will pledge myself that, I never, directly nor indirectly ever exchanged a word with him out of the public rooms, on public days, and on common place subjects. And if it could be adjudged expedient by you, and those with whom I usually conversed on subjects of this sort I would announce as much in the Gazettes; when it might not be amiss perhaps to let my *whole* letter to Mr. Gouvr. Morris, and his to me, to which it was an answer, appear also in order to do away the effect of another charge which extracts drawn from the former, was intended to make on the public mind, namely, a dereliction to France and the contrary to Great Britain. To produce a justification of one's conduct in matters of this sort wou'd be unpleasant, if it was unconnected with public concerns, I should treat the assaults to injure me with the contempt they deserve; but when it [illegible] becomes a matter of more magnitude and merits [illegible].

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, February 7, 1798.

My dear Bushrod: Your letter of the 1st instant came to hand by Saturdays Post, with the Auditors Receipts. If no bad consequences flow from the delay, in that Office, it is immaterial

when I obtain the result of his investigation of the State of my taxes, on the Western Waters; but to prevent it, let me request you, to keep his enquires alive. The tract of 587 Acres lyes, I presume, in the County of Harrison; or if divided, in the part taken therefrom, below, on the River Ohio, lying about 15 miles below Wheeling. The other tract, on the Ohio, is situated 3 or 4 Miles below the Mo. of little Kanhawa; and if not *in* the County bearing that name, must be in the one next above it. And the other missing tract, assuredly lyes in what is *now* called Kanhawa.

Yesterday, the enclosed came to my hand, and is forwarded without delay. I am exceedingly glad to hear that you are quite well. Accept, and present, our Affectionate regards etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, February 7, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your two letters, both dated the 1st. instant, came to hand yesterday *only*. I thank you for giving me the perusal of their enclosures; and as I am upon the point of setting out to a meeting of the Stock holders of the Potomack Navigation, and may be from home two or three days, I return them without delay.

I had, it is true, entirely forgot my old Coach until reminded thereof by Mr. Small; upon which, I wrote to Colo. Biddle (who transacts all matters of that sort for me in Philadelphia) to sell it for whatever it would fetch, and took it for granted that all expences (as he had money of mine in his hands) had been paid. Let me entreat you, therefore, to direct Mr. Small to that source for payment.

As the Gout and Rheumatism are said to be cousin germans, it is no matter on which Acct. (I hope I may) congratulate you on a recovery from. Complimts. &ca. and I am always etc.

## *To BURWELL BASSETT

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1798.

Dear Sir: I am glad to find by your favour of the 1st. instant, from Eltham, that you had postponed entering into any contracts for Corn until you should hear from me, relatively to the advanced price of that article *with you.*

Since Corn has arisen to 15/. with you, I find I can purchase, and supply my Distillery with all it requires, on better terms here than to fetch it from below. When the freight, Insurance or risk are added to 15/. the cost of that article on York river, it will amount to 17/6 *at least;* when it is to be bought in Alexandria at 16, or 16/6 *at most.*

Under these circumstances I pray you to desist from buying, and to accept my thanks for the trouble I have already given you in this business. The family here are all well, and unite with best regards for you etc.

## *To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, February 11, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 14th Ulto. and 6th. instt. have been duly received. The receipt of the first, would have met with an earlier acknowledgment, had I not waited for the coming of the latter, agreeably to your assurances of forwarding one, so soon as the documents could be obtained from the Records in Richmond.

The description which you have been at the trouble to give me in your former letters, of my lands on Rough Creek; the view of the country *generally,* contained in that of the 14th. Ulto; and the particular description of the Waters of Rough Creek and Green River; together with the bounteous provisions made

by *Providence* to accommodate the Inhabitants of it, is clear, precise, and extremely satisfactory; and I fell myself much gratified, and obliged by the recital of them.

*All* the Papers transmitted in your letter of the 14th of January, are herewith returned, as they may be of use to you in the prosecution of the business, which you have kindly undertaken in my behalf, and can be of none to me, in the present stage of the business; nor ever, perhaps, if matters are amicably settled, and I should not become the purchaser of the tract formerly Wodrows.

From your account of the prices of Land on rough Creek, I should suppose that twenty shillings an Acre for Hite's 300 Acre tract (formerly Wodrows) would be considered a high price, especially as the whole, in a manner, is periodically flooded; to this extent I would go; having a little previous notice after the purchase is made to provide for the paymt. If the Land cannot be obtained at this price, Mr. Short might be requested *as from yourself* to ascertain the lowest sum Mr. Hite would take, and await the result of an answer, from me. Mr. Short is, I have no doubt, a Gentleman of character; but it will not escape you, that in treating with a neighbour, perhaps an intimate friend, he wd. feel no disposition to bring Mr. Hite to his lowest price, or ultimatum. But if he should make the purchase, one thing will be indispensably necessary, and that is, to see that Mr. Hite's title is clearly derived; for it does not appear from the Papers you sent me (which are returned) by what transfer, or process, Mr. Isaac Hite became the Grantee. The Record says, that Andrew Wodrow assigned the Survey of 300 acres to Isaac Hite, Abraham Hite junr., and Joseph Hite. and by another endorsement Andrew Hynes is introduced, as standing between the Hite's and the Grantee.

With respect to the other contemplated addition to my land on Rough Creek, I would not wish to proceed further, in the first instance, than to an *enquiry* whether *all* the Lands, to be included by a straight line, to be run from the upper corner of my 2000 Acre tract, at G in the connected plat, I sent you, to the lower corner on the Creek, of the 3000 acre tract, at D, could be had? At what price? and on what credit? If Mr. Field, at your request, would be so obliging as to ascertain these points, it would be rendering me an acceptable service; and my ulterior measures would be regulated thereby. As it is not an unusual thing for People to have their expectations raised, and to raise their prices accordingly, upon enquiry of this sort, it may not be amiss for him to understand, that my *sole* object is to *shape* my land, and to include the waters, having *very little* inclination to increase the quantity, and none for the purposes of speculation. If, therefore, the Proprietors of the lands, which would be included by such a line as is described above, should be induced to advance their price in consequence of these enquiries, they will deceive themselves, at the sametime that they defeat my object.

I pray you to keep an A/c of the cost, of obtaining copies of any Records in behalf, and to let me know the amount; as also of any other expences which may be incurred in the transaction of this business, and they shall be paid on demand, with thanks, and with pleasure: for though I give you trouble in it, I do not mean to load you with expence. I wish also to be informed whether the Postmaster in Fredericksburgh charges postage on my letters to you, or not, when they are Franked with my name.

We are all tolerably well, and unite with best regards to you, Mrs. Spotswood and the rest of the family. With very great Esteem etc.

## *To SALLY BALL HAYNIE

Mount Vernon, February 11, 1798.

Miss Salley: I have received your letter of the 28th. of last month, and without enquiry at this time why you left Mr. Lewis's family or how you employ your time, I have requested him to furnish you with ten pounds to supply you with such necessaries as you may be in immediate want.

But as you have no fortune to support you, Industry, œconomy, and a virtuous conduct are your surest resort, and best dependance. In every station of life, these are commendable. In the one in which it has pleased Providence to place you, it is indispensably necessary that they should mark all your footsteps. It is no disparagement to the first lady in the Land to be constantly employed, at some work or another; to you, it would prove, in addition to a chaste and unsullied reputation the surest means of attracting the notice of some man with whom your future fortune will be united in a Matrimonial bond and without which it would be in vain to expect a person of worth. I wish you well and am Your friend.

## *To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, February 11, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 31st Ulto. came safe to hand, and the Deed therein enclosed, shall be executed in the manner, and in time, to obtain a certificate from the Clerk of this County at the Court next to be held for it, on the 19th. instant, and transmitted to you.

Enclosed is a letter for Sally Haynie, left open for your perusal before it is forwarded to her; with the contents of which, respecting the payment of ten pounds, I request you to

comply; and charge the same to the A/c of your collection of my Rents.

With regard to my Land above Bath, I am really at a loss what direction to give concerning it. To have the valuable Walnut trees, with which it abounds, taken off, by a parcel of lawless intruders, is extremely disagreeable (if they can not be punished) on the one hand, and for the sake of obtaining a better Rent, to engage to take them off myself, within a given period, and that perhaps a short one, would be attended with great inconvenience, perhaps expence and loss, on the other. For unless I could get them to *this place* the cost of felling, preparing them for transportation, and attending them down the River would be a dead charge, and without the latter was done, that is to attend the logs down, I should not get one of them; of course all that preceeded would be lost. I see but two modes by which I can be benefitted by these Logs; one to let some person occupy the land without paying Rent, for the sole consideration of taking care of them. The other, if a good rent could be obtained, to oblige the Tenant to deliver them *to me,* noting the quantity of the trees, at a certain price, to be allowed out of the Rent. A third method indeed occurs, but it is one by which I should, apparently, get little for them, namely, to sell them on the spot: and yet, ultimately, if they would sell *there* for near their value, it might be the most productive mode of the three.

Under this dilemma, make the best investigation of the subject you can, and act as shall seem most conducive to my interest. I am not inclined to give a lease for *more* than *Seven years,* and if the tenant is permitted to kill the Walnuts by girdling the trees, I do not believe that the Crops would sustain much injury by their standing. They would season in this manner, and a few years hence, when the Navigation of the River is in a more improved state might be brought down with more ease

and safety. Perhaps, upon the whole, this may be found the most eligable Plan.

We are all tolerably well at this time and unite in offering our best wishes for you, Mrs. Lewis and the family. With sincere friendship, and Affectionate regard, etc.

## *To JAMES ROSS

Mount Vernon, February 12, 1798.

Dear Sir: For the mere purpose of acknowledging the receipt of your favor of the 2d. instant,[98] covering a receipt from the Bank of Pennsylvania for the Bonds of Colonels Shreve and Ritchie, deposited therein for Collection, is this letter written.

I will add however, while the Pen is in my hand, that with you, I think it is vain to expect any change in the sentiments, or political conduct of those who are, in every form it can be tried, opposing the measures of the Government, and endeavouring to sap the foundation of the Constitution. A little time now, must decide what their ulterior movements will be, as they have brought matters to a crisis. With very great esteem etc.

## *To ALBIN RAWLINS

Mount Vernon, February 12, 1798.

Mr. Rawlins: Your letter of the 7th. instant in reply to mine of the 31st. of January, was recd by the last Post; in which you

[98] Ross had written: "The legislature is much divided, and the parties in it, as much embittered against each other, as it is possible to conceive. The more our danger encreases, the factious, discontented spirit seems to become bolder, and to assume a more desperate [*sic*] attitude. One party or the other must obtain a decisive Victory before the Machine of Government can move with efficacy. The sooner this is decided the better. At present the House of Represts. is engaged in a deep, learned discussion of a knotty question. Whether Spitting in the face of a Member while attending his duty in the house is an insult or not. Those who know the house best seem to think that the ruffian who was guilty of this rudeness, will be protected by his party." Ross's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

say, the mode of living will be agreeable to you, and that you think two hundred dollars would be little enough to receive, as wages by the year.

Wages are always high, or low, according to the abilities of the employed, and wants of the employer; and also, and essentially, on account of the quantum of the employment. That which I shall have to do would be easy in the execution, but the person must always be at hand, and in readiness to perform it; and for doing so I had never contemplated giving more than $100; and for this sum characters have offered knowing that as they would have an easy birth, and exposed to little or no expence, Bed, board and washing being found them, but as they do not write so good a hand as you (presuming the letters I have received from you are of your own penning) I would allow you $150 provided you can bring sufficient testimony (as you are an entire stranger to me) of your Sobriety, integrity and good dispositions, and provided also that you understand accounts, or could soon acquire a knowledge of them.

In my last, I informed you where, and in what manner you would live, if you came to me, that is, you would have rooms to yourself, and would eat and drink with my Housekeeper, who is a very respectable character.

I wish now that you may be enabled fairly to decide, to give you the outlines of the duties which would be required of you, for to go into all the minutiae that, in the course of business, might be as impracticable as it would be useless.

To copy and record letters and other Papers, to keep Books (if required) and an account of articles received from and delivered to the Farms; and such other matters and things as relate thereto; to go (by land or water, at my expence, when expence is necessary) to such places as my business may require. to receive grain, and attend to the measurement of it,

and other things when it is necessary to send a trustworthy person to see it done, would constitute your principal employment, out of these, as has been observed before, smaller matters may arise, but altogether will not be laborious.

I have been thus particular that you may decide, at once, whether you will, or will not accept the offer here made. If the former, I shall, to accomodate you, consent to your remaining three or four weeks where you are; to arrange your business; but in either event shall wish to have your determination as early as possible that I may act accordingly, as I must engage some one and soon to do the business I have enumerated.

As Judge Lyon lives in the Vicinity of Hanover Court house, you may, possibly, be known to him from whom, Judge Pendleton, [illegible] or any one I am acquainted with a recommendation would be acceptable and satisfactory. I am etc.

## *To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, February 16, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 13th instant was received yesterday. Previous thereto, a young man of Hanover County, who writes a beautiful hand; said to be well acquainted with accounts; and can obtain good recommendations, has offered his services as a Clerk; but asking more than I am disposed to give, I had wrote him, that if he would fall to my mark, I would employ him in that line; and until I receive his answer, I am not enabled to say any thing *definitively* relatively to the Nephew of Mr. Davidson.

I may add however, that if my proposal is not acceded to (of which I shall be informed by the middle of next week) I would engage Mr. Davidson's Nephew as a Clerk, at the rate of $100 pr. Ann: provided he will Indent himself to me for three years,

or (being as you say about 18) until he is of age; and provided also he has had a classical education or is capable of writing gramatically, and has some knowledge of accts. and Book keeping or could soon acquire it; and above all is sober and discreet, and of a good disposition.

It does not appear from your letter that Mr. Davidson has been apprised that, whoever comes to me as a Clerk, will not set at my Table. It is necessary that he should be previously informed of this, the one I have written to is acquainted therewith, and does not expect it. The person whosoever he may be, will eat as I do, but at a second table with the Housekeeper, who is a decent and respectable woman. He will have a bed room over the Office, where he will write (the one at present used by Mr. Anderson) and will be very comfortably fixed, having his washing, as well as bed and board found him. These things are mentioned before hand, that matters may be clearly understood.

If they are agreeable and Mr. Davidson or his Nephew will intimate as much, they shall hear further from me so soon as I receive the expected answer from Hanover; and if the Nephew possesses the qualifications I have enumerated, and will come bound, he will be accepted, if the other refuses my offer. I wish to be informed in this matter without delay, and at the same-time to receive a specimen of the young man's writing. Mrs. Washington who is well unites with me in best wishes for yourself, Patcy and the Children, with etc.

## *To JOHN FITZGERALD

Mount Vernon, February 20, 1798.

Dear Sir: In answer to your letter of yesterday's date, I request you would inform Mr. Sim's that I cannot with my own

consent, and consistent with my own engagements, grant the time he asks for payment of the money due me, and which ought to have been paid weeks ago.

If my hold is not *weakened* by the Act, and he will give me unequivocal security (such I mean as *you* would be satisfied with) that the money with interest from the time it became due, and cost of protest &ca. at the Bank, shall be paid on, or before the first day of April next I will consent (although it may involve me in embarrassment) to wait until that then, for payment; beyond which I cannot extend it; and must request to be informed, and decidedly, whether he accedes to this, that my measures, if he does not, may be taken Accordingly. If he should to you as the mutual friend to both, I submit the Negociation. The former note is yet at the Bank. Mr. Sim will not forget, I trust, that his *first* application was for a few days *only;* and the forbearance has been upwards of six weeks. I stand, at this moment, engaged to pay for a quantity of Rye and Corn, and must buy more, or let my Distillery remain Idle, wch cannot, reasonably be expected. Yrs. etc.

## *To ALEXANDER MARTIN[99]

Mount Vernon, February 22, 1798.

Sir: The last Post brought me your favour of the 4th instant, accompanied by a Dramatic piece of Poetry. For both I thank you.

The latter I have read with pleasure; highly applauding the motives wch gave birth to it: for lamentable, and much to be regretted indeed it is, that in a crisis like the present, when all hearts should be united and at their Post, ready to rejoice at the good, or repel the evil which await us, that nothing but inter-

[99] Senator from North Carolina.

nal dissentions and political hostilities are to be found in the Councils of our common Country.

Although no longer an Actor on this Theatre myself, I cannot but view these things with deep concern. I have the honor etc.

I do not know what Road you usually travel to and from the Seat of Government, but if it be by the way of Alexandria I should always be glad to see you at this place of my retreat.

## *To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, February 26, 1798.

Dear Sir: When you were here last, I informed you, that from the reputation which the College at Annapolis had, I was most inclined under every view I could take of the case, to send Washington to that Seminary; and, accordingly, had requested Mr. George Calvert (who informed me that he was going to that City) to converse with the President of the College on this subject, and make other enquiries, and to acquaint me with the result.

Enclosed, I transmit his letter. It wd. have been more pleasing, and much to have been desired, to have got Washington fixed in the house with Mr. McDowall; but this it seems cannot be, for reasons assigned by that Gentleman. I think, notwithstanding, that he had best go there; as, from all accounts, there is *less* of that class of people which are baneful to youth, in that City, than in any other, from the nature of its composition, and strictness of its Police, according to Mr. Calverts Account. and for another reason also; seeing (as he confesses he has) what effect his misconduct has had upon his friends. Pride, when classed with other Students, will operate in addition

On February 22 Martha Washington wrote to Mrs. Robert Liston, wife of the British Minister. The draft of this, in the writing of Washington, is in the *Washington Papers*.

thereto, a more powerful stimulus, than it would in lonely, and solitary reading and studies, by himself.

If he was to go to Alexandria, his Studies must be conducted at the Academy, or in his own chamber. The first, after coming from a large and celebrated College, he would consider as degrading, and in the other case (being left alone) he would attend very little to them while Mr. Moffat was discharging the trust reposed in him at the Academy. To expect, after devoting the appropriate hours to his school there that he wd. apply much of the residue to Washington, is what he would not perform, *strictly,* was he to promise it. And besides, from the information I have been enabled to obtain, the young People (Storekeeper and clerks chiefly) are idle, dissipated and extravagant. Acquaintances with some of them would be soon formed, and the consequences not difficult to predict. From good authority I am informed that many of them spend in Taverns *more* than their wages amount to. The deficiency must be supplied in some way or another.

With respect to his (Washington's) remaining at this place, I am perfectly satisfied from the experience of the last few months that he has been here, that even under the constant care of a more illumined Preceptor than I am sure there is the least chance of obtaining, he would progress very little; and as the case now is, that he will forget what he does know, so inert is his mind.

He takes Alexandria in his way to Hope Park, to provide himself with such Clothes [illegible] At what time they will be ready, otherwise than by promise, must depend on the Tayler. The Suggestion of your accompanying Washington to Annapolis is contained in Mr. Calverts letter, and coincides perfectly with my ideas of the utility of the measure. If it be convenient, and agreeable to you to undertake the journey, you

shall be informed when he is ready to commence it, or, if there could be any dependence upon the Tayler he could inform you himself. If you cannot go, I will ask Mr. Lear to do it, but this will not answer as well, in either case the expence will be mine.

Mrs. Washington has a very bad cold, the rest of the family, at home, are as usual. best wishes to Mrs. Stuart and all with you. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, February 27, 1798.

My dear Sir: Mr. Rice called here in his way to Alexandria, and delivered me your letter of the 15th. instant.

Of the recent afflicting event,[1] which was related therein, we had received previous accounts; and on that as on former occasions of a similar nature, sympathised sincerely in your sorrows. But these are the decrees of an Allwise Providence, against whose dictates the skill, or foresight of man can be of no avail; it is incumbent upon him therefore, to submit with as little repining as the sensibility of his nature will admit. This will have its course, but may be greatly ameliorated by philosophical reflection and resignation. As you have three children left, I trust they will be spared to you, and sincerely hope that in them you will find consolation and comfort.

Had your intimation of Mr. Ashton's[2] wishes been announced to me about a fortnight ago, I would, gladly, have employed him in the character you have mentioned; provided his expectation of compensation had come within my means; which, in truth, are hardly able to support the heavy expences I am, in a manner, unavoidably run into, Finding it impracticable

[1] Ford thinks this was the death of the second wife of William Augustine Washington, who was Mary, the daughter of Richard Henry Lee.

[2] Burdett Ashton. He married Ann Washington, the sister of William Augustine.

to use the exercise (on horseback) which my health, business and inclination requires, and, at the sametime to keep my Accounts, and perform all the writing which my late public occupations have been the means of involving me in, I resolved to employ a Clerk (if to be had on moderate wages) and accordingly, about twelve or fourteen days ago, engaged one who writes a very good hand, and said to understand Accounts and Book keeping, at $150 a year. What would have been Mr. Ashton's expectations I know not; beyond this sum, or $200 at most, I could not have gone: and if he would have been contented therewith, and the application had been made in time, I should have received him with pleasure, in preference to the person who *is* to come, and who I expect here about the middle of next month, if he fulfils his promise.

The reason which you assign for giving the rudiments of education to your sons at home is a weighty and conclusive one; but much will depend upon the qualifications, and fitness of the Preceptor you employ, to render it more or less beneficial. To a certain point, tuition under the eye of Parents, or Guardians of Youth, is much to be prefered; because, the presumption is, that the propensities and passions, will be watched with more solicitude and attention by them, than by their Tutors: but when the direction of these are unfolded, and can be counteracted by the discipline of Public Schools, and the precepts of the Professors. Especially too, when the judgment is beginning to form; when pride becomes a stimulus; and the knowledge of men, as well as of Books, are to be learnt; I should give the preference to a public Seminary.

I make use of no Barley in my Distillery (the operations of which are just commenced). Rye chiefly, and Indian Corn in a certain proportion, compose the materials from which the Whiskey is made. The former I buy at 4/6 for the latter I have

not given more than 17/6, and latterly 17/. delivered at the Distillery. It has sold in Alexandria (in small quantities from the Waggons) at 16/. and 16/6. pr Barrl. but at what it goes now I am unable to inform you. So large a quantity as you have for sale may command a good price.

Is there any person in your neighbourhood in the practice of selling staves, proper for flour barrels? If so, be so good as to inform me, and at what price they could be delivered at my landing (at the Mill). Any letters for me, put into a Post Office meets a safe and ready passage but how to insure mine to you, you can best tell, and I wish to be informed.

Did you ever receive a letter from me transmitting the request of Sir Isaac Heard of the Heraldry Office in England respecting the Genealogy of our family? and my own desires to be furnished with the Inscriptions on the Tombs of our Ancestors on [illegible] Bridges Creek? Among your father's Papers, I thought it was likely, you might obtain some information on this head. From the coming over of John and Lawrence Washington brothers in the year 1657 I have been able to trace the descendents of the former; being the one from whom our family came; those of Lawrence, from whom the Chotanckers proceeded, I have not been able to give any correct account; and that is the Branch to which Sir Isaac Heard's enquiries particularly point, being tolerably well informed of the descendants from John. The enquiry is, in my opinion, of very little moment, but as Sir Isaac has interested himself in the matter and seems desirous of tracing the family from whence we are descended back, I wish to give him as correct information of it as I am able to procure.

I am very glad to hear that you enjoy tolerable good health at present, and that your children are perfectly well. It is unnecessary I hope to assure you, that at all times, when you can make it convenient, and the situation of your health will

permit, that we shall be very happy to see you at this place. Where is Mrs. Washington of Bushfield? I hope She is well. I acknowledged the receipt of her latter to me by the Post, but whether it ever got to her hands or not, I am unable to say. Probably not, as you lye out of the Post Road, and they may not be in the habit of sending to the Post Offices. Poor lady! I fear she will soon have another afflictive trial of her resignation to the Divine Will, in the death of Mrs. Corbin Washington, who from the last accts. we have had of her, cannot remain long among us. This family unite in best wishes for you, and yours, And I am &c.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, February 27, 1798.

Dear Sir: In the latter end of Jany. I acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 16th. of that month; writing you fully relative to several matters; on some of which (one in particular respecting the price of the best German Oznabgs.) I was in hopes I should have received an immediate answer to. Not having heard of the miscarriage of any Mail, I am at a loss to what cause to ascribe your silence; and yet, none appearing so likely, as a mishap of the letter, I forward a duplicate of it.

Ellwood arrived about the date of my last, and the articles sent by him were delivered in good order. By the first Vessel bound to Alexandria, I pray you to send me the several Articles mentioned in the enclosed list, addressed to the care of Colo. George Gilpin of that place. I am etc.

Sundries, to be sent from Philadelphia by Colo. Clement Biddle, for, and on A/c of George Washington; and addressed to Colo. Geo: Gilpin in Alexandria.

A Small box, say 20 or 30 lbs. of the best Imperial, or Hyson Tea

Two Jars, or small boxes best Raisons
A barrel, or about 50 lbs. good Currants
50 lbs Almonds in the shell
Half a bushl. or bushel of the Ground Pease, or Pindars as they are called
A barrel, or smaller quantity of the best kind of Shell bark Hiccory Nuts or Kiska Toms as some call them.

## To ALEXANDER WHITE

Mount Vernon, March 1, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th. Ulto. was received yesterday. For the information it has given I thank you; although it is not of the most pleasing sort, some parts of it indeed has surprised me not a little, but neither the surprise or the cause of it, shall be communicated to any other.

My sentiments relatively to the memorial you are already possessed of, and therefore I shall add nothing more on that Subject, than the expression of a fear, that the disgraceful topic which has so long occupied the time and oratory of the House of Representatives[3] will contribute nothing to the favorable reception and issue of it.

If time should hang a little heavy on your hands, while the memorial is pending in Congress the appropriation of an hour or two of it *now and then,* not only to inform me of the progress of *that* business but as a calm observer (and in confidence if you choose it) to give me your opinion of matters as they pass before you in review; for misrepresentation and party feuds have arisen to such a height, as to distort truth and to become portentous of the most serious consequences. Where or when

[3] Representative Matthew Lyon's attack on Representative Roger Griswold.

they will terminate, or whether they can end at any point short of confusion and anarchy is *now* in my opinion more problematical than ever.

I had until lately entertained a hope, that the continued depredations which are committed on our Commerce, the Pacific measures, which have invariably been pursued to obtain redress, and to convince the French of our earnest wish to remain in Peace with them, and all the World; and the indignant treatment those efforts have met with, would have united all parties, and all descriptions of men (except those who wish to see the waters troubled) in a firm and temperate demand of Justice; or, in preparations for the worst: but the reverse seems more apparently than ever to be the case; and every thing that can be by the most unnatural construction is exhibited as a justification of the Conduct of France towards this Country, and in condemnation of the measures of the latter.

What seems to be the prevalent Opinion of Colo. Monroe's "View of the Conduct of the Executive of the United States?" I do not mean the Opinion of either party; but (if such are to be found) of the dispassionate, or at least of the moderate part of both. I will make no remarks on it myself inclining rather to hear the observation of others, which I would wish to hear with the most unreserved frankness. But I will not enlarge on this or any other subject at present but conclude with assuring you that with sentiments of very great esteem etc.[4]

## *To SAMUEL DAVIDSON[5]

Mount Vernon, March 2, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 19th. Ulto. came duly to hand, and as it was your opinion that your Nephew was not educated in

[4] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[5] Of Georgetown (District of Columbia).

such a manner as to answer the purpose for which I had written to Mr. T. Peter, I made no reply to it.

Since then, another opening of a different kind, has occurred, which would afford employment for your Nephew on the terms suggested to Mr. Peter, but at a different Place.

I have erected a pretty considerable Distillery at my Mill (about 3 Miles from this place) the operations of which are just commencing, under the Superintence [*sic*] of Mr. Anderson my Manager (an honest Countryman of yours) whose Son resides thereat, and carries it on. He requires some person of sobriety and good character, in whose integrity reliance can be placed, as an Assistant, and who, if he conducts himself with intelligence and propriety, may probably when qualified therefor, become the Manager of it himself as both the father and son will give him every insight to fit him for a competent Distiller, in their Power.

I will, as on the former occasion, allow One hundred Dollars pr. Annum on condition that he is bound to me until he is of the age of 21, or for 3 Years. His residence will be at the Distillery with young Anderson, where fit accomodations for lodging them, &ca. are provided.

I would thank you for an immediate answer as such a person as I have described is *now* requisite. I am etc.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1798.

Dear Sir: Since writing to you on the 27th and 28th Ulto, your letter of the 22d. has been received. I should be glad to know, as soon as you are enabled to furnish me with the means of judging, whether it will be best to buy Oznabrigs, or Ticklenbergs in Alexandria, or to send to Philadelphia for them;

and to know it, I shall await the result of your enquiries and information.

I have already left it to your own judgment, to fix a period for selling the old Coach; and repeat it. You will have perceived however, that the expences thereon are accumulating; whilst, in all probability, the Carriage is growing worse and worse in its appearance. The A/c wch. has been exhibited for keeping it (if the charge is not unusual) must be paid; to me it appears very high.

I prefer having the Encyclopedia (second set) bound in gilt calf; and I hope it will be done neatly: and when put into your hands and the A/c rendered to me, the money shall be immediately paid. The sooner I could receive them, the more agreeable it would be to me.

I have already employed a young man to come to me as a Clerk: but a blacksmith, if one of good appearance and character could be had as a redemptioner, it would suit me well, provided he was well acquainted with the construction of farming implements, Shoeing horses, &ca. With esteem etc.

## *To JOHN PARKER

Mount Vernon, March 4, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 9th Ult came duly to hand, and would have received an earlier acknowledgment had not causes of one kind or another intervened.

Always desirous of promoting works which are calculated for the use and benefit of mankind, and believing that the one you have in contemplation if well compiled, will contribute to this end, I readily become a Subscriber to it.

For the flattering terms in which you have been pleased to introduce the subject to me, I pray you to accept the thanks of Sir, etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, March 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Knowing nothing of Mr. John Parker (whose letter I enclose you); of his fitness for the work he contemplates; or the utility of it when done; except bringing all these matters into a connected view; which indeed might be useful. But knowing as I well do, that many men when they want money, and do not readily know how else to come at it, are too apt to set projects of this kind on foot, to obtain it; sometimes for the *mere* purpose of catching a penny, without meaning more than to get hold of the money; and oftentimes without abilities to execute their designs in useful undertakings, by which attempts more competent pens lye unimployed. I say, viewing things in this light, and presuming you have a better knowledge of what is stated in his letter than I can pretend to, of his views, and of the propriety of encouraging the proposed undertaking, I have taken the liberty of putting along with his letter, my answer, to be forwarded to him, or not as your judgment and from existing circumstances, you shall deem best. With truth and sincerity etc. Are our Commrs.[6] Guilotined? or what else is the occasion of their Silence?

## *To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Mount Vernon, March 5, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 24th Ulto. from George Town, enclosing Mr. Veatch's[7] letter to you, and account of Rents due to me; got safe to my hands.

It is not my wish, or request, that any of my tenants near Monocasy (who manifest a real disposition to discharge their

[6] To France.
[7] Hezekiah Veatch.

Rents honestly) should be injured by distraining on their effects. All therefore that is incumbent on Mr. Veatch to do, in this case, is to keep an eye upon them, and not to suffer the means by which these Rents are to be discharged, to slip thro' his fingers; and to take care also, if they are not paid in the specific article stipulated, that is Tobacco, that he receives the value thereof in money at the price it actually sold, at the time it became due, and ought to have been paid. Of these matters you will please to inform Mr. Veatch, and with whatever else you and he may judge it expedient to do, in my behalf I shall be perfectly satisfied, and will abide the issue.

If Mr Lear has received the Bale. due from Mr. Jones,[8] he has no doubt given me credit for it, and it will appear in his A/c when I come to settle it.

I can only repeat to you, my thanks for the trouble you have taken in these concerns of mine, and add to them, assurances of being Dear Sir etc.

PS. At the moment I was going to close this letter for the Post Office, I was informed and heard with sincere regret, the death of your worthy brother, Colo. William Deakins, for whom when alive I had a high esteem and regard. On this melancholy occasion I offer you my heartfelt condolance.

## *To JOHN McDOWELL

Mount Vernon, March 5, 1798.

Sir: Consequent of a letter which I have lately received from Mr. Geo: Calvert, this letter will be presented to you by Doctor Stuart; who is so obliging as to accompany young Mr. Custis to Annapolis for the purpose of entering him at College,[9] under

[8] John Jones, of Cecil County, Md.
[9] St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.

your auspices; and for making such arrangements respecting his boarding; the proper line of conduct for him to observe; and course of Studies, as you and he (the temper and genius of the youth being considered) shall conceive most eligable for him to pursue.

Mr. Custis possesses competent talents to fit him for any studies, but they are counteracted by an indolence of mind which renders it difficult to draw them into action. Doctr. Stuart having been an attentive observer of this, I shall refer you to him for the developement of the causes. while justice, from me, requires I should add, that I know of no Vice to which this inertness can be attributed. From drinking and gaming he is perfectly free, and if he has a propensity to any other impropriety, it is hidden from me. He is generous, and regardful of truth.

As his family, fortune and talents (if the latter can be improved) give him just pretensions to become a useful member of Society, in the Councils of his Country, his friends (and none more than myself) are extremely desirous that his education should be liberal, polished, and adapted to this end. Any exertions of yours therefore to promote these wishes, would be gratefully received.

Whatever is agreed upon by Doctr. Stuart in my behalf, with relation to Mr. Custis, will meet the approbation of, and be complied with by, Sir Your etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To GEORGE RICHARDS MINOT

Mount Vernon, March 5, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 10th Ult. accompanying the first Vol: of the continuation of Massachusetts history, came to my hands yesterday, and I delay not a moment to acknowledge the receipt of it, and to thank you for this fresh instance of your

politeness; and for the sentiments you have been pleased to express for me.

From the accuracy of your pen, and the purity with which your former productions have been given to the Public, I entertain no doubt of the correctness and valuableness of the present work. With esteem etc.

## *To DOCTOR B—— FENDALL[10]

Mount Vernon, March 6, 1798.

Sir: Mrs. Washington has been long in expectation of receiving what you took away unfinished, and was to have completed and sent to her; and prays that it may be done with out further delay, as she is in want of them; and must apply elsewhere if not done. I am etc.

## *To JOHN NICHOLAS

Mount Vernon, March 8, 1798.

Sir: The letter which you did me the favor of writing to me under date of the 22d. Ulto. came safe to hand. Nothing short of the Evidence you have adduced, corroborative of intimations which I had received long before, through another channel, could have shaken my belief in the sincerity of a friendship, which I had *conceived* was possessed for me, *by the person*[11] to whom you allude. But attempts to injure those who are supposed to stand well in the estimation of the People, and are stumbling blocks in their way (by misrepresenting their political tenets) thereby to destroy all confidence in them; is one of the means by which the Government is to be assailed, and the Constitution destroyed. The conduct of this Party is

[10] A dentist.
[11] Thomas Jefferson.

systematized, and every thing that is opposed to its execution, will be sacrificed, without hesitation or remorse; if the end can be answd by it.

If the person whom you *suspect,* was really the Author of the letter under the signature of John Langhorne, it is not at all surprising, to me, that the correspondence should have ended where it did; for the penetration of *that man* would have perceived at the first glance of the answer, that nothing was to be drawn from *that* mode of attack; In what form, the next insidious attempts may appear, remains to be discovered. But as the attempts to explain away the Constitution, and weaken the Government are now become so open; and the desire of placing the Affairs of this Country under the influence and controul of a foreign Nation is so apparent and strong, it is hardly to be expected that a resort to covert means to effect these objects, will be longer regarded.

With respect to Mr. Monroe's "View of the conduct of the Executive of the United States" I shall say but little; because as *he* has *called* it a view thereof, I shall leave it to the tribunal to which he himself has appealed, to decide 1st, how far a correspondence with *one* of its Agents is entitled to the unqualified epithet he has bestowed thereon; 2d. How, if it is not, it is to exhibit a view thereof; 3d, how far his Instructions, and the letters he has received from that Executive through the Constitutional organ, and to which he refers, can be made to subserve the *great points* which *he* and his *Party* are evidently aiming at; namely, to impress upon the public mind that favoritism towards Great Britain, has produced a dereliction, in the Administration, of good will towards France.

As to the propriety of exposing to public view his private Instructions, and correspondence with his own Government, nothing need be said; for I should suppose that the measure

must be reprobated by the well informed and intelligent of *all Nations;* and not less so by his abettors in this Country; if they were not blinded by Party views, and determined at all hazards to catch at any thing, that, in their opinion, will promote them. The mischievous, and dangerous tendency of such a practice, is too glaring to require a comment.

If the Executive, in the opinion of the Gentleman you have alluded to, is chargeable with "premeditating the destruction of Mr. Monroe in his appointment, because he was the *centre* around which the Republican party *rallied* in the Senate" (a circumstance quite new to me) It is to be hoped he will give it credit for its lenity to that Gentleman for having designated several others (not of the Senate) as Victims to this office *before* the sacrafice of Mr. Monroe was ever had in contemplation. As this *must be some consolation* to him and his frds. I hope they will embrace it.

But as you have given me assurances of a visit at this place with Governor Wood in the Spring which is now commencing I shall only add that with esteem &c.

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, March 8, 1798.

My dear Bushrod: As some time has elapsed since I heard from you, and something remained to be done by the Auditor of which you were to give me the result I have been apprehensive of a return of your fever and wish to hear of a perfect recovery of yourself and Mrs. Washington who we are informed has also been sick.

In one of my last letters to you, was enclosed a certified copy of the publication of the Chancery decree in the London Gazette relative to Colvills Affairs. Did it get safe to your hands?

and in that, or another letter I asked what steps I ought to take to legalize Genl. Lee's Conveyance of Land to me, as the proof thereof was not in time? and whether the Postmaster in Richmond charged you with the Postage of my letters? To none of these have you made any response.

But the motive which has induced me to write to you, at this moment, will be found in the enclosed correspondences and with the observation and enquiry which follow, will explain the object of giving you the trouble of reading them.

Mr. Nicholas (who is a conspicuous performer in this business) is a Gentleman with whom I have no *recollected* acquaintance, and the political conduct of all those of the name, whom I do know, adds nothing to my esteem of them. He seems very desirous of drawing me into a correspondence on Party subjects; which of all others, is not the most pleasant; and even civil answers upon this topic to one of whose character I know nothing, might be imprudent.

Enquiring, upon the receipt of the first letter from Mr. Nicholas, who he was, I was answered, I think by Doctr. Stuart, that he was Clerk of Albemarle Court; was a respectable man; well disposed to the Government; and the reputed Author of a number of pieces under the signature of Americanus. Since that, he has doubted whether it was the person he had in view, or not; this circumstance, and Mr. Nicholas in his last letter speaking of you as his intimate friend, has induced me to give you the reading of *all* the letters; and to rest it with you, from a view of the subject, and the knowledge you possess of the character of Mr. Nicholas, to forward, or return to me, the letter herewith enclosed, to its address. It is left open for your perusal. If it goes on, seal and put it under another cover, or not, as you please. The other Inclosures will be returned to me of course.

Our love to Mrs. Washington and with sincere friendship &c.

## *To JAMES KEITH

(Private)

Mount Vernon, March 13, 1798.

Dear Sir: A few days ago I received the enclosed letter and Papers from Mr. Lear, but before I execute the Deed to the President of the Potomack Company alone, I wish to be informed from you (as one of the Directors) whether this would be agreeable to the letter of the Resolutions, on which the measure is founded, and if not strictly so, whether the Act of the President and Directors in this case had not better be made to be so. I shall not enlarge; but submit the matter to your reflection on the mode most secure, and satisfactory to those who place their Stock in this situation. I do not recollect precisely enough, the transactions on that occasion, to give a pointed opinion thereon; Nor do I know for the same reason what is to follow the Conveyance of the Stock to the President of the Company, intermediate between *that* Act, and the moneys getting into the hands of the Treasurer. This is a matter which claims the serious attention of All those to whom the business is entrusted, and in whom confidence is placed. A letter in answr. to this, with the Papers returned, lodged in the Post Office by thursday morning will come safe, and be in time. With great estm. etc.

## *To DOCTOR WILLIAM STOY[12]

Mount Vernon, March 17, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 28th. Ulto.[13] came safe, but was sometime longer than might have been expected, on its way.

[12] Of Lebanon, Pa.
[13] In the *Washington Papers.*

As I think your charge for the prescription application to Christopher (my servant), who was supposed to be bitten by a mad dog, is a very reasonable one, I send you enclosed a five dollar bank note of Alexandria (having no other paper money by me); without enquiring whether your not having received four dollars before, proceeded from the neglect of the Servant, or any other person.

Christopher continues to do well, and I believe is now free from apprehension of any bad consequences from the bite. I shall beg to be informed of your receipt of this letter, being unwilling that you should go unpaid. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

## To GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

Mount Vernon, March 19, 1798.

Dear Washington: Your letter of the 12th instant has been received; and it gives me and your friends here much pleasure to find that you are agreeably fixed, and disposed to prosecute your studies with zeal and alacrity.

Let these continue to be your primary objects and pursuits; all other matters at your time of life are of secondary consideration. For it is on a well-grounded knowledge of these, your respectability in maturer age, your usefulness to your country, and, indeed, your own private gratification, when you come seriously to reflect upon the importance of them, will depend. The wise man, you know, has told us (and a more useful lesson never was taught) that there is a *time for all things;* and now is the time for laying in such a stock of erudition as will effect the purposes I have mentioned. And above all things, I exhort you to pursue the *course* of studies that Mr. McDowell, of whom every one, as well as yourself, speaks highly, has or shall mark out as the most eligible path to accomplish the end. It is from

the experience and knowledge of preceptors that youth is to be advantageously instructed. If the latter are to mark out their own course, there would be little or no occasion for the former, and what would be the consequence it is not difficult to predict.

One or other of the family will expect to receive a letter from you once a fortnight, that we may know how you are in health; in addition to which, I shall expect to hear how you are progressing in your studies, as time advanes. All here join in best wishes for you, among whom, your sister Peter is of the number; and you may be assured of the friendship of your affectionate etc.[14]

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, March 19, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th instant has been received; and I shall depend upon receiving samples of the Oznabrigs and Ticklenbirgs, with the prices annexed, so soon as you are enabled to give them; as I can not much longer delay purchasing the quantity I want, and am now making partial purchases to supply immediate calls, and not on good terms.

By the first regular Packett from Philadelphia I shall expect to receive the Groceries, the Table Ornaments, and the Encyclopedia: Let the latter be accompanied by Mr. Dobsons acct. of cost; and say what sum will be necessary, in addition to any balance which I may have in your hands, after paying for such articles as have been ordered and which I am about to request; and the money shall be immediately remitted.

In consequence of the opinion given by you of Mr. Savages[15] Print[16] (presuming it is his you allude to) I pray *you* to request

[14] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington.*

[15] Edward Savage.

[16] Probably the prints from Savage's first portrait of Washington, which was painted in 1789 for Harvard University.

*him* to chuse four for me; and have them put into handsome, but not costly, gilt frames, with glasses (supposing them to be of a size to admit glasses) and send three of them to me; the other, Mrs. Washington (I believe) is under promise of presenting to Mrs. Green (now Mrs. Miller).[17] This is the additional expence alluded to in the last Paragraph; and which I request may be paid as soon as presented to you.

I am very sorry to hear of the Capture of the Ship New Jersey. Where, or how, or when, these violations will end, is not for me to say. With esteem etc.

## *To ALEXANDER WHITE

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favors of the 10th and 14th Instant have been duly received, and for the information contained therein I feel grateful. Rarely going from home, I have nothing in the way of News to offer you in return.

It has always been my opinion, and so I have expressed it, that the Proprietors of the City of Washington (with some exceptions) are, by their jealousies, and the modes they pursue to promote their local interests, amongst its worst enemies. But if your present exertion to obtain a loan from Congress should succeed, of wch the prospect seems good, all doubts respecting the intentions of that Body, towards the permanent establishment of the Government, at that place, will be removed; Confidence will take place in every mind; and the Public buildings will be accompanied by private ones for the accommodation of its Members. My wishes, and my labours have always tended to the accomplishment of these points; the

[17] Widow of Gen. Nathanael Greene, who married Phineas Miller.

first is all I have left, to offer, and these shall be fervent. The principle which operated for fixing the sites for the two principal buildings, were well understood, and found necessary at the time to obtain the *primary* object; *i e* the ground, and means for either purpose: but it is always easy from an ignorant or partial view of a measure, to distort and place it in an unfavourable attitude. Nothing short of insanity can remove Congress from the Building intended for its sittings, to any other part of the City in the present progress of the Work. Where, or how the houses for the President and other public officers may be fixed, is, to me, *as an individual,* a matter of Moon-shine; but the reverse of the Presidents reason for placing the latter near the Capitol, was my motive for fixing them by the former. The daily intercourse which the Secretaries of the Departments *must* have, with the President, would render a distant situation extremely inconvenient to them; and not much less so would one be close to the Capitol; for it was the universal complaint of them all that while the Legislature was in Session they could do little or no business; so much were they interrupted by the individual visits of Members (in office hours) and by calls for Papers. Many of them have declared to me that they have been obliged, often, to go home and deny themselves, in order to transact the current business.

No person will congratulate you more sincerely than I shall, on the final success of your mission, if it answers yr. expectations; nor is there any one, who reprobates more than I do improper interferences *of all sorts.* As your perseverance, however, is likely to be accepted, and as this will open a view which promises a pleasing prospect, I hope you will suffer no difficulties, or differences, to divert you from your course; and that you will not quit the business until you see the Legislature seated in the Capitol of the United States.

The last Message from the President to the Houses of Congress has brought matters to an Issue, and how it will . . .[18] to repeat with names, . . . could be fixed . . . that some Members of Congress . . . been selected . . . correspondence, with the Directory of France and among other matters . . . advising that; or be received under . . . continued . . . If that report be true "What . . . would be too great . . . beast . . . owe their greatness to their Country . . . .

The conversation related in your last, will never be repeated by me nor any thing else which is related in confidence. With very great esteem etc.[19]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, March 27, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of —— came safe, and in due time; for the information contained in it I thank you; your request was immediately complied with, as every one of a similar nature shall be.

A Report is circulated in Alexandria and its vicinity, transmitted, (it is said) in private letters from Philadelphia, that a correspondence has been discovered, or more properly, letters have been intercepted from some M——rs of C——g——ss to the D——ct——y of F——, of a treasonable nature. Containing, among other matters, advice not to receive our Envoys; on the contrary, to menace us with hostile appearances, and they might rely upon bringing the U. States to her feet. The name of one person has been mentioned to me.

Cruel must these reports be, if unfounded; and if well founded, what punishment can be too great for the Actors in

[18] The press copy is badly mutilated. The words indicated by leaders [ . . . ] are illegible. The "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers* ends with the word "Issue."

[19] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

so diabolical a Drama. The period is big with events, but what it will produce is beyond the reach of human ken. On this, as upon all other occasions, I hope the best. It has always been my belief that Providence has not led us so far in the path of Independence of one Nation, to throw us into the Arms of another. And that the machinations of those, who are attempting it, will sooner or later recoil upon their own heads. Heaven grant it may soon happen upon all those, whose conduct deserve it. With truth I am etc.

## *To MILES SMITH

Mount Vernon, March 27, 1798.

Sir: A few days ago I was favored with the receipt of a letter from William Strickland Esqr. of York in England; which, as it was introductory of you, to me, I presume it must have passed through your hands.

It would have afforded me much pleasure if you had been the bearer of that letter; and if at any time, business or inclination should induce you to make a tour in this State (Virginia) I should be much gratified in seeing you at this retreat. and in conversing with you on the principles and practice of Husbandry, notwithstanding my thread is nearly spun, and my wish is to Lease out my Farms (containing from five hundred to 1200 Acres of Ploughable ground) before it is broken. I live within eight or nine miles (by land and water) of Alexandria. I am etc.

## *To THOMAS MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, March 30, 1798.

Dear Sir: General Spotswood, in my behalf, has requested Mr. Short to purchase a small piece of land (from a Mr. Hite)

adjoining one of the tracts I hold on Rough Creek, in the State of Kentucky; and wch, it is said, would add much to the value of mine.

Should this purchase take place, and a good and sufficient conveyance thereof be made, and duly executed to your satisfaction, I hereby authorise you to draw upon me in payment thereof, for any sum, not exceeding Three hundred pounds or One thousand Dollars, at Sixty days sight, and the Bill shall be punctually paid.

I have had no further draughts upon me for the non-resident tax upon the 5000 Acres of Land which I hold on the Rough Ck. of Green River, but shall be ready to pay at all times such Bills as may be presented for this purpose. With very great esteem etc.

## *To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, March 30, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 23d. instant only got to hand last night, and whether this reply to it may reach you in time, is questionable.

Your suggestion I have adopted; and you will perceive by the enclosed letter to Colo. Marshall, left open for your perusal, sealing, and forwarding, that I have authorised that Gentleman in case Mr. Short should make the purchase from Mr. Hite, to draw upon me at Sixty days sight for any sum not exceeding Three hundred pounds, upon due execution of conveyance of the same to me.

Mrs. Washington will have an opportunity this day of informing Mr. Lewis of the recovery of his daughters health, as she proposes to call there. This family are all well, and unite with best regards to you and yours, with Dear Sir etc.

## *REMARKS ON MONROE'S "VIEW OF THE CONDUCT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES"[20]

[March, 1798.]

In the month of May, 1794, I was invited by the President of the United States, through the Secretary of State, to accept the office of minister plenipotentiary to the French Republic.—Page iii.[21]

After several attempts had failed to obtain a more eligable character.

It had been too my fortune, in the course of my service, to differ from the administration upon many of our most important public measures.—p. iii.

Is this adduced as conclusive evidence that the Administration was in an error?

I was persuaded from Mr. Morris's known political character and principles, that his appointment, and especially at a period when the French nation was in a course of revolution from an arbitrary to a free government, would tend to discountenance the republican cause there and at home, and otherwise weaken, and greatly to our prejudice, the connexion subsisting between the two countries.—p. iv.

Mr. Morris was known to be a man of first rate abilities; and his integrity and honor had never been impeached. Besides, Mr. Morris was sent whilst the Kingly Governmt. was in existence the end of 91 or begg of 92.

Mr. Jay was nominated to Great Britain; which nomination too I opposed, because, under all the well-known circumstances of the moment, I was of opinion we could not adopt such a measure, consistently either with propriety, or any reasonable prospect of adequate success. I also

[20] The *View* was printed by Benjamin Franklin Bache, and this copy of Monroe's pamphlet contains the marginal manuscript notes of Washington upon the various printed paragraphs opposite them. The original was given by Bushrod Washington to Justice Joseph Story in 1828, and is now in the Harvard College Library. It is undated, but Ford places it between March 8 and March 25 in his edition of the *Writings*. The pamphlet was issued in December, 1797; but copies do not appear to have reached Virginia before January, 1798. Monroe's printed text is here given in 10-point type; Washington's manuscript comment is in 12-point.

[21] Of Monroe's pamphlet.

thought, from a variety of considerations, it would be difficult to find, within the limits of the United States, a person who was more likely to improve, to the greatest possible extent, the mischief to which the measure naturally exposed us. This last example took place only a few weeks before my own appointment, which was on the 28th of May, 1794.—p. iv.

Did the then situation of our affairs admit of any other alternative than Negotiation or War? Was there an abler man, to be found to conduct the former or one more esteemed?

When I considered these circumstances, I was surprised that this proposal should be made to me by the administration, and intimated the same to the Secretary of State; who replied that my political principles, which were known to favor the French revolution and to cherish a friendly connexion with France, were a strong motive with the President for offering me the mission, since he wished to satisfy the French government what his own sentiments were upon those points.—p. iv.

And who had better opportunities of knowing what these were, than the confidential officers about his person, for the time being?

Our affairs with France had fallen into great derangement, and required an immediate and decisive effort to retrieve them.—p. iv.

Did not this derangement proceed from the injurious conduct of the French, in their violations of the 23d and 24th Arts. of the Treaty with the U S and the application of the latter for redress?

My instructions enjoined it on me to use my utmost endeavours to inspire the French government, with perfect confidence in the solicitude, which the president felt *for the success of the French revolution; of his own preference for France to all other nations as the friend and ally of the United States; of the grateful sense which we still retained for the important services that were rendered us by France in the course of our revolution;* and to declare in explicit terms, that although neutrality was the lot we preferred, yet in case we *embarked in the war it would be on her side and against her enemies, be they who they might.*—pp. iv.–v.

And is there to be found in any letter from the Governmt. to him, a single sentiment repugnant thereto? On the contrary, are not the same exhortations repeated over and over again? But could it be inferred from hence, that, in order to please Fr we were to relinquish our rights, and sacrifice our Come?[22]

Upon this point[23] my instructions were as follows: "It is not improbable you will be obliged to encounter on this head suspicions of various kinds. But you may declare the motives of that mission to be, *to obtain immediate compensation for our plundered property and restitution of the posts.*"—p. v.

And these *were* the *immediate motives;* but for which an extra Envoy would *not* have been sent. But did it follow, when this expence was about to be incurred, that the Government wd not embrace the opportunity to settle and place other concerns upon the best footing it cd?

Who[24] were now unhappily diverging from each other, and in danger of being thrown wholly apart; and, as I presumed, equally against the interest and inclination of both.—p. vii.

Why? Because one nation was seeking redress for violations and injuries committed by the other.

Upon my arrival in Paris, which was on the 2d of August, 1794, I found that the work of alienation and disunion had been carried further than I had before even suspected.—p. vii.

For the reasons above mentioned. If we had submitted to them without remonstrating, we shd. still have been their dear frds. and Allies.

I presented my credentials to the commissary of foreign affairs, soon after my arrival; but more than a week had elapsed, and I had obtained no answer, when or whether I should be received. A delay beyond a few days surprised me, because I could discern no adequate or rational motive for it.—p. vii.

---

[22] Commerce.
[23] John Jay's mission to England.
[24] France and the United States.

How does this accord with his communications to the Secretary of State? See letters of the 11th and 25th Augt. ps. 7 and 35.[25] Has he not assigned very satisfactory reasons for the delay? Does the answer of the President of the Convention indicate any coolness or discontent on the part of the French Government? What then was it he had to contend against at his outset?

It was intimated to me that the committee, or several at least of its members, had imbibed an opinion, that Mr. Jay was sent to England with views unfriendly to France, and that my mission to France was adopted for the purpose of covering and supporting his to England; that the one was a measure of substantial import, contemplating on our part a close union with England; and that the other was an act of policy, intended to amuse and deceive.—p. vii.

Strange conception, and want of information this, when it was notorious, that a War with great Britain seemed to be almost unavoidable.

I thought I perceived distinctly, that not only the temper which had been shown by the committee, but the general derangement of our affairs with France, proceeded in a great measure, if not altogether, from the same cause, a suspicion that we were unfriendly to them.—p. ix.

Or more properly perceiving that we were not to be drawn into the vortex if it were possible to avoid it.

My first note to the committee of public safety on this subject, bears date on the 3d of September, 1794; in which I discussed and combated copiously, and as ably as I could, the conduct of France in thus harassing our commerce against the stipulations of certain articles in our treaty with her; and urged earnestly the immediate repeal of the decrees which authorized that proceeding.—p. ix.

But finally told it (contrary to express Instructions) that if it was not convenient to comply with those Artics, the Governmt.

[25] In the section of "Instructions and Correspondence, &c.," of Monroe's *View*. which section is paged in Arabic numerals. The pages noted, however, are not here printed, as they have no marginal notes by Washington thereon.

and People of the U: States wd give them up with pleasure, altho' it was the pivot on wch. our claim was fixed. See letter 3d Sep. pa. 35.

I do not wish to be understood as having been guided by political motives only in expressing the sentiments contained in that clause; on the contrary, I admit they were strictly my own; affirming at the same time that they would never have been thus expressed, had I not been satisfied, they were such, as it was honourable for the United States to express, and were likely also to promote their interest.—p. x.

Here is a measure adopted and avowed wch. was beyd. the Powers of the Executive; and for wch. if he had exercised them he might have been impeached; because it was not only dispensing with important Articles of the Treaty but was surrendering the only grd. on which our claims of compensation could be established.

From the committee itself I could obtain no answer, and to my informal applications to some of its members, I found that the difficulty of allowing our vessels to protect the property of English subjects, whilst they gave none to that of French citizens, against the English cruisers, with that of distinguishing in our favor from the case of Denmark and Sweden, in which we were now involved, were objections of great weight with the committee.—p. xi.

Such was *our* Treaty. If Denmark and Sweden were not entitled to the same, by Treaty, wherein lay the difficulty of discrimination? and what are the advantages of Treaties if they are to be observed no longer than they are convenient?

I thought I perceived, still remaining in the councils of that body, a strong portion of that suspicion of our views, in regard to our mission to England, so impressive upon my arrival; but which I had hoped was eradicated; and the more earnestly I pressed an accommodation with my demands the more obviously did this motive present itself to my view.—p. xi.

This has been the game wch. the French have uniformly played to parry Justice.

Nor did France invite us to the war, or manifest a wish that we should engage in it; whilst she was disposed to assist us in securing our claims upon those powers, against whom we complained of injuries.—p. xvii.

France never invited us, it is true, to go to War; nor in explicit terms expressed a wish that we should do so; but can any thing be more apparent than that she was endeavoring with all her arts to lead or force us into it?

In promising to communicate to the committee the contents of this treaty as soon as I knew them, I did so in the expectation of fulfilling my promise, when I received a copy of the treaty from the department of state, and not before; for I expected no further information upon that subject from Mr. Jay.—p. xviii.

This declaration can not be reconciled with the various attempts which he made to obtain it, both from Mr. Jay and Mr. Pinckney; for the information of the *French Government,* before it was known to his *own.*

As he[26] had refused to send me a copy of the treaty, according to my request, by Mr. Purviance, and omitted, not to say refused (though indeed I understood his omission in the light of a refusal) otherwise to inform me of its contents by that very safe opportunity, I did not see how the correspondence could be continued on that subject, on his part.—p. xx.

No one else will think it extraordinary, that he should refuse a copy for the declared purpose of laying it before the Fh. Government, and yet be disposed to inform him *in confidence* with the contents thereof; thereby to enable him to remove unfavourable impressions. Nor is it extraordinary that Mr. Jay should authorize *his own Secretary,* who had been privy to all the proceedings, to make this communication, whilst he refused to commit himself to Mr. Purviance let his character have been what it would.

These considerations will, I presume, likewise sufficiently explain why I would make no representation to the French government of the

[26] Jay.

contents of that treaty, for which I became personally responsible, upon the mere authority of Mr. Jay, or other wise than upon a copy of the instrument itself.—p. xxi.

Most extraordinary reason this, in such a case! and under the circumstances Mr. Jay was.

Such was my conduct upon the above occasion, and such the motives of it.—p. xxii.

And extraordinary indeed it was!

In this he[27] notices my address to the convention; as also my letter to the committee of public safety of the third of September following; both of which acts he censures in the most unreserved and harsh manner. In the first he charges me with having expressed a solicitude for the welfare of the French Republic, in a stile too warm and affectionate; much more so than my instructions warranted; which too he deemed the more reprehensible, from the consideration, that it was presented to the convention *in public and before the world,* and not to *a committee in a private chamber;* since thereby, he adds, we were likely to give offence to other countries, *particularly England, with whom we were in treaty;* and since, also, the dictates *of sincerity do not require that we should publish to the world all our feelings in favor of France.*—p. xxiii.

And would it not have been more consistent with our declaration of Neutray?

For the future, he instructs me, to cultivate the French Republic with *zeal,* but without any unnecessary *eclat,* and by my letter to the committee, demanding an indemnity for spoliations, and a repeal of the decrees suspending the execution of certain articles of our treaty of commerce with France, he objects that I had yielded an interest it was my duty to secure.—p. xxiii.

No reasoning can justify the measure. Nor circumstances Warrant *his* relinquishment of our rights.

Upon this occasion I thought proper, in reply to his first charge, to lay open more fully than I had before done, some truths, at which, indeed, I had before only glanced; particularly the light in which our administration was viewed by the committee upon my arrival.—p. xxiii.

[27] The Secretary of State.

If the fact was so, the relating thereof ought to have accompanied the discovery, that the effect might have been counteracted. These after and time serving relations do not tell well.

It would be painful to go into details on this subject; but the circumstances here hinted will make it easy to conceive the unfavorable inferences, that must have been drawn respecting the temper and views of our administration.—*note on* p. xxiv.

It has been noted already, that Mr. Morris was appointed Minister during the Reign of Louis the XVI, [28] years before his confinement; how then can this charge apply? Afterwards, under the fluctuating counsels and changes which succeeded, even the acuteness and wisdom of a Monroe might have erred. But the principal cause of their objection to Mr. M. was, that he claimed the fulfilmt. of the Treaty, and restitution for the damages we had sustained by the violation of it, with firmness and Perseverance; to do wch. by *Deeds,* as well as *Words,* was not their Intention.

To express sentiments in private, which it was wished should not become public, appeared to me a strange doctrine to be avowed by the administration of a free people, especially as it was known that the sentiments, thus expressed, were in harmony with those of the people, and with those publicly and formally expressed by the representatives of the people.—p. xxv.

The great and primary object of the Administration was to preserve the U. S in Peace, by pursuing a conduct strictly neutral. It was not essential then, knowing beforehand with what eclat the reception was to be, to make a parade of sentiments, however strongly they might be felt, and however pleasing to one Nation, which might create unpleasant feelings in other Nations, with whom we were also in Peace, and wished to remain so.

[28] Blank in the manuscript.

Well satisfied I am, that France declined taking them[29] in her treaty with Spain, which soon followed, from a fear it might weaken her connection with the United States.—p. xxvii.

Guess work this, and not at all probable from that motive.

Had that treaty then never passed, and had we also otherwise preserved the ground upon which we stood with that nation, in the commencement of its revolution, what might we not have expected from its friendship?—p. xxvii.

Nothing, if she did not perceive some advantage to herself in granting it.

The prospect therefore of success in that important concern was now as fair as it could be.—p. xxvii.

This wd. all have been ascribed to France if that Government had had the least Agency in the Negotiation.

Mr. Pinckney was aware of the benefit which would be derived from such aid; but yet did not consider himself at liberty to obtain it, by shewing a copy of Mr. Jay's treaty, which I intimated might be necessary completely to remove the doubts that were entertained in that respect, and therefore deemed it most suitable to say nothing to the committee upon the subject of his mission.—p. xxviii.

Here again is another attempt to possess the French Government of the Treaty before ratification; and after repeated declaration of the impropriety of the measure.

It would at least have greatly embarrassed the administration to explain the cause of such a phenomenon to its credit; notwithstanding the advantage thereby gained to the public.—p. xxviii.

Indeed! When his Instructions required him to ask it!

By these letters it appeared that Mr. Jay had concluded a treaty upon other principles than those to which his powers were restricted, as inferred from my instructions, and of course, that the nature and object of his mission to England had been misrepresented, through me, to the French government.—p. xxix.

[29] The Floridas.

The Instructions warranted no such conclusion; nor could the Government be responsible for his want of discernmt. and consequent misrepresentations.

That the administration had injured me, was a point upon which I had no doubt; that it had likewise compromised its own credit, and with it that of the United States, was also a truth equally obvious to my mind.—p. xxx.

But not so in *either case* to an impartial and discriminating mind.[30]

I assured him, however, that I should continue to endeavour to inspire the French government with a confidence, either that the treaty contained nothing improper, or would not be ratified in case it did.—p. xxxi.

Solicitous always to get hold of the Treaty prematurely, for the use of the French government, he omits no opportunity of expressing his chagrin for his disappointment; and would have wished to see the Executive of the U. States as indiscreetly forward as himself in promulgating it, before it had been submitted to the Senate. How can he reconcile this conduct to the practice of the French Governmt? Can he produce an instance of its making a Treaty public before it was ratified? If not, why has he pressed it on his own? Could Secrecy, in matters of this sort, be proper in that government and improper in ours?

But I own also that my reluctance was diminished by the knowledge that the administration possessed the treaty with England, whilst Colonel Humphreys was in America, and the presumption thence arising, that this objection was weighed and overruled before his departure.—p. xxxii.

And he wrote to his father, ending with this line, "I am my lovely [*sic*] Nedia ever thine."[31]

[30] The lower half of page xxx, which discussed, at length, Monroe's consideration of a voluntary relinquishment of his office of Minister to France, is inclosed by Washington in a brace, in which he has written: "Curious and laughable to hear a man under his circumstances talking seriously in this stile, when his recall was a second death to him."

[31] Neither Ford nor Sparks print this note.

At the moment however when Mr. Barlow was upon the point of embarking with our presents, &c. intelligence was received that a Mr. Donaldson, whom Col Humphreys had left at Alicante with a conditional power, but in the expectation that he would not proceed in the business till he heard further from him, had passed over to Algiers and concluded a treaty with that regency, and of course without the aid of France; and thus ended our application to the French government for its aid in support of our negotiations with those powers, and nearly in the same manner as that did, which I made for its aid in support of our negotiation with Spain.—p. xxxii.

Mr. Donaldson was, by Colo Humphreys Instructed to proceed to Alicante, and act according to Circumstances. A favourable moment occurred, and he was advised by persons well acquainted with the state of matters at Algiers, and the then policy of the Dey, to embrace it. He did so, and happily succeeded. But not in the way most agreeable to Mr. Monroe; as it was effected without the agency of the Fh. Notwithstanding this agency, according to the advices Donaldson recd would, at that momt have been injurious.

From this period I had but one object to attend to, the preservation of our actual footing with France, which was, as already shewn, as favorable as we could wish it to be.—p. xxxiii.

Except suspicions, doubts, and the bugbear Treaty, which were always at hand, and brought forward when our claims were pressed; although the contents of that Treaty were unknown, and assurances were given that their rights were saved.

By me it was never introduced, for as I had no new communication to make to the committee upon it, whereby to remove the suspicions that were entertained of its contents, and any allusion to it in that state could of course only serve to revive unpleasant sensations to our disadvantage, I thought it most eligible to keep it out of view.—p. xxxiii.

That is one of the material charges against him; for altho' he had himself given information of the suspicions, doubts, and discontts. as above mentioned, and was possessed of the

sentimts. of his Government relative thereto with the intention to remove them, he keeps these out of view until he is informed that the Directory have made up their mind upon the subject.

It was soon obvious that this aggression of Great Britain upon the rights of neutral nations, being made with the intent to increase the distress of famine which was then raging at Paris, and thereby promote the disorders which were in part attributable to that cause, excited a ferment in the French councils, which was not pointed against Great Britain alone.—pp. xxxiii, xxxiv.

The conduct of G. B. in this instance was extremely reprehensible; and was one of the motives for sending an Envoy to that Cty; but it was no justification of the wrong we recd from France with whom we had a Treaty that was infracted by the measure.

About the middle of August 1795, American gazettes were received at Paris containing copies of the English treaty, whereby its contents were made known to the committee of public safety without my aid. From this period therefore all mystery upon that subject was at an end. The possession of the treaty enabled the French government to judge for itself upon all the points which it involved. Nor was the effect which it produced an equivocal one; for there did not appear to me to be a description of persons, not in the interest of the coalesced powers who did not openly and severely censure it.—p. xxxiv.

They were predetermined to do so and took the tone frm their partisans on this side the water.

But as yet it was not known that the treaty was ratified, nor certain that it would be, for the spontaneous and almost universal disapprobation that was bestowed upon it throughout the United States, as soon as it was seen, was sufficient at least to inspire a doubt on that point.—p. xxxv.

He should have said before it was seen; for it is a well known fact, that the opposition from the French Party, in the U S. began and writg commenced against it, as soon as it was known that a Treaty had been concluded and before one article therein

was known to those writers. No more evident proof, therefore, can be given, that it was not the *contents* of the Treaty, but that a Treaty should be formed, which, putting an end to the disputes between the U. S and G. B; put an end also to the hopes and expectation of our embarking in the War on the part of France. This, and this only, was the source of all the discontents, which have appeared on this occasion.

The appearance of the treaty excited the general disgust of France against the American government, which was now diminished by the opposition which the American people made to the treaty.—pp. xxxv, xxxvi.

Who were the contrivers of this disgust and for what purposes was it excited? Let the French Party in the U. S. and the British debtors therein answer the question.

Under existing circumstances it would not only be necessary for the administration to avail itself of some well known pronounced character in regard to the great question which now agitates the world, to whose care the negotiation should be committed, but that in other respects extraordinary circumspection should be used in the prosecution of the negotiation itself.—p. xxxvii.

The reader will be at no loss to discover who is here pointed at, nor for what purpose it is done.

The letter of June 1st contained a justification of the conduct of the administration in forming a commercial treaty with Great Britain at that period; and likewise a vindication of the administration against the charge of a want of candor (which seemed to be apprehended) in the explanations that were given by it of the motives of that mission; in which the idea of a commercial power was always withheld.—p. xxxvii.

This never would, or cd. have been apprehended had it not been seen that the enemies of the government were determined to have it so considd. How withheld? Is it usual, or was it necessary to publish to the world all the points on which the negotiation was to turn? His own conduct evinces how indiscreet it would have been to have intrusted him with them.

The letter of July 2d contained advice, that the treaty was not ratified, and that the president was undecided upon the point of ratification.—p. xxxvii.

Upon no other ground, than that of the subsequent conduct of G. B. relative to the Provision order, so called.

It was inferred from these letters, that, when that of June 1st was written, the executive had resolved to ratify the treaty in case the Senate approved it, and that the hesitation which afterwards took place proceeded more from the shock which the general disapprobation of the treaty by the people gave the administration, than from any disinclination on its own part to the ratification.—p. xxxviii.

A mistake in toto; the hesitation as mentioned on the other side proceeded from the Provision order for it was obvious to the least discerning that an opposition by the French Party had been resolved on at all events, and had actually commenced before a single article of the Treaty was known: and the blaze, which he describes broke out before it was possible to consider it, or a hundredth part of its opposers had ever read it.

It was likewise inferred, that that *letter* was written with a view to lay the foundation for such an event, in the expectation the ratification would probably embroil us with France.—p. xxxviii.

It was well conceived that there was nothing in the Treaty which *ought* to have embroiled this Country with France.

In one particular the contents of this letter affected me personally, by affirming that my instructions had not warranted the construction I had given them, in explaining as I had done the motives of Mr. Jay's mission to London.—p. xxxviii.

and *affirmed* it too upon solid ground.

Of the symptoms of discontent which I witnessed, I had before given frequent intimations.—p. xl.

True, but without availing himself effectually as he ought, of the means with which he was furnished to remove it.

My wish was to conciliate the French government towards the treaty which was now ratified, and most anxiously had I looked to the administration for the means of doing it.—p. xliii.

What means is it he wanted? Did he expect to be authorized to declare that the Government was in an error in having made a Treaty without first obtaining the consent of France; and to ask pardon for not having submitted Mr. Jay's instructions and the terms of it to the rulers of that Country before it was ratified?

Acts of candor when performed, if acknowledged by the party to whom they are said to be rendered, ought not to be boasted of by those who perform them.—p. xliii.

Why not, if the fact *was* admitted allow the American government to adopt *some* of the *all* perfect maxims of the French. It will not be denied that, to boast of what they do, and even of what they do not do is one of them.

Indeed it professes to notice, and in fact notices only one article, the 18th, and in so doing, admits in effect all the objections that were urged against it.—p. xliii.

This is denied, we could not yield a thing of which we were never possessed, and which it was not in our power to obtain. Nor was there any permission given, that the British did not claim, and exercise before, under the Law of Nations.

Would the administration, in a demand of payment for those seizures, which took place after the treaty was concluded, distinguish the cases, and confine that demand to such vessels as were taken in their route to a blockaded port, saying, for these only will we be paid, but for the others, comprehending perhaps 99 out of 100, we will not; and thus revive the controversy, which it was said was thus amicably closed? This, it is presumed, would not be done.—p. xliv.

Did the Treaty with G B surrender any right of wch. the U. S. had been in possession? Did it make any change or alteration in the Law of Nations undr which G. B had acted in defiance of all the Powers of Europe? Or did it give her any authority to sieze Provision Vessels contrary to that Law? If none of these why all this farrago, but to sow the seeds of discontent, by imposing upon the uninformed?

With respect to the declaration, that we were an *independent people* and had a *right to decide for ourselves,* &c. so often repeated, I did not perceive how it applied at the time: there had been no question on that point that I knew of.—p. xlv.

None are more dull than those who will not perceive. If there was no question of this sort, whence proceeded the discontents before the Treaty was promulgated, and after repeated assurances had been given that nothing contained in it infracted our engagements with that Country?

France had attempted to impose on us no conditions; had asked of us no favours; on the contrary had shewn a disposition to render us many; under which circumstances we had made a treaty with Britain.—p. xlv.

There the shoe pinches. This Treaty defeated all hope of embarking this country in the war on the part of France, and became a death warrt. to its hopes. She was liberal in promises but what has she done? Promising and performing are very distinct things.

To reconcile France to that treaty, I expected to have been authorised to explain to her government how long the commercial part was to remain in force; to state it formally, that we were ready to enter into a new commercial treaty with her, and upon what principles, to be commenced either in Paris or Philadelphia: In which expectation, and with a view to the event of a ratification, I had told the administration, when I advised it of the ill-effect the treaty, whose contents were then known, had produced, that I should await its orders without any, the slightest, compromitment either of it or myself.—p. xlv.

What obligation was there upon us, if Independent, to account to a foreign Nation for the proceedings of our own Government; and why *press* upon France a wish to enter into a new Commercial Treaty when our readiness to do so (as he knew from Official correspondence) had been declared at difft. times and in various ways: was this the way to obtain one, on good terms?

But it was my duty to answer this letter, which I did without a comment; for it was improper for me to censure and useless to advise.—p. xlvi.

When a rational answer and good reason cannot be given, it is not unusual to be silent.

I shewed, it is true, no mark of undue condescension to that government.—p. xlvi.

Few will be of this opinion, who reads this Book.

Those considerations appeared to me to be so strong and pressing, that I concluded, as soon as they were brought to the view of the administration, he[32] would be removed, and of course that the measure was already taken: In which expectation I answered the minister politely, intimating that I should communicate to our government the request of his in that respect, not doubting that it would be readily complied with.—p. xlvii.

Upon the first intimation of misconduct in Mr. Parish an enquiry into it was instituted: but Mr. Monroe as it was the wish of the French Govt. would have had him discharged without a hearing; but when another Consul of the U States was as highly charged with acts equally repugnant to Neutrality, (in favour of Fra) he could find nothing amiss in his conduct.

The subsequent management of the affair upon the application of the French government shewed, that the incident became rather a cause of irritation, than of conciliation with that government; notwithstanding the evident impolicy of such a procedure at the time, on account of the crisis to which we were brought: For although the administration (not being able to resist the objections to his continuance) did remove him, yet it was done in a manner so as to shew the French government, it was not done in compliance with its request.—p. xlvii.

A candid explanation of a motive is here deemed a cause for irritation, notwithstanding the request is complied with.

Much too was said in that address of the advantage of our accommodation with Britain, as likewise of the favourable disposition of that power

[32] John Parish, United States Consul at Hamburg, Germany.

towards us, without the slightest attention being shewn to the French Republic.—p. xlviii.

To state facts for the information of Congress, and not to write eulogiums on the French Nation, or conduct was the object of the then President. If Mr. Monroe should ever fill the Chair of Government he may (and it is presumed he would be well enough disposed) let the French Minister frame his Speeches.

Unless indeed it was referred to in the picture of distress above noticed, as was inferred by the French government, as I understood from good authority, at the time.—p. xlviii.

If the Cap did not fit, why put it on?

In the course of the year 1795, the French government had repealed, as already shewn, all the decrees which were passed during the mission of Mr. Morris, under which our trade had been harassed.—p. xlviii.

But has our suffering Commerce received any Compensation? And why was not this urged with firmness, agreeably to his Instructns?

Yet none of those acts or of the disposition which produced them, were even glanced at in the president's address to congress, although it was to be inferred, such notice would have produced a good effect, and although it was then as just as it was politic to notice them.—p. xlviii.

What! Declare to the world in a public speech that we were going to treat with *this* and *that* Nation, and that France was to assist us! Insanity in the extreme!

This conduct in the administration was the more extraordinary, from the consideration that those decrees, by whose authority our trade was harassed, with the harassment itself, had been announced in former communications to the Congress, when the British depredations were announced.—p. xlviii.

Could this repeal be announced before it was known?

Under such circumstances, it was impossible for me to succeed in conciliating the French government towards the British treaty, since my

efforts were not only not seconded in that respect by our administration, but absolutely counteracted by it.—p. xlviii.

In what respect *counteracted?*

Nevertheless I continued to pursue the same line of conduct that I had done before, being resolved not to relax in my efforts, however unsuccessful I might be.—p. xlviii.

That is not doubted, but for what purpose were they exerted?

The sequel of my mission exhibits an interesting but painful spectacle, the distinguishing characteristics whereof are; the avowed decision of the French government to take some measure towards us in consequence of our treaty with England, as illustrated by many examples; with my efforts to prevent any such measure taking effect; and the attack made on me by our administration, upon pretexts equally unjust, frivolous and absurd.—p. xlix.

An impartial public will be enabled, from his own shewing, to decide more correctly than he has done, how far these sentiments are just.

On the 15th of February 1796, I called on the minister of foreign affairs to state to him the distress of many of our citizens, merchants at Paris, on account of their claims upon the French government, with a view to engage his aid for their relief; but was immediately diverted from that object by information which he gave me, that the Directory had at length made up its mind how to act in regard to our treaty with England; which it considered as having annulled our treaty of alliance with France, from the period of its ratification; and had appointed or intended to appoint an Envoy extraordinary, to repair to Philadelphia to remonstrate against it; adding that he was ordered to send me an official note upon the subject, which he should accordingly do.—p. xlix.

It not suiting the French Government to pay, and knowing the trim of our Minister, the British Treaty, or something else was always played off to silence his applicatns.

I attended him again on the day following, and remonstrated most earnestly against the measure, urging every argument that I could avail myself of to divert the government from it; offering to enter with him,

whenever he thought fit, into a discussion of his objections to our treaty, or any other act of our government; assuring him, that I should not only be always ready to enter with him into such explanations, but in the present instance should do it with pleasure, since by being possessed of our view of the subject, they would be better able to decide whether the complaint was well or ill founded, and of course how far it merited to be considered in that light.—p. xlix.

Had he applied the means *in time* with which he was furnished matters might not have come to this.

Upon this occasion, as upon the preceding one, the minister declined stating any specific objections to the treaty, or any other act of our government, and therefore I could make no specific defence.—p. xlix.

Declined for the best reason in the world because he had none that would bear the test of examination.

A summary of those complaints was presented me by the minister of foreign affairs.—p. l.

and is there a candid and well informed man to be met with, who will carefully compare this summary of complts. with our Treaties with Fr. and G Britn. and these again with the Laws of Nations, and not pronounce them the most futile that can be conceived to come from a Nation who would be thought to act from principles of Independence and Justice?

From the period of my audience by the directory, and more especially after my communication with the minister of foreign affairs was handed in, I had frequent conferences with several of the members of the directory, in which I labored to promote the same object, and at one time, as I thought, with complete success: being informed by a member, upon one of those occasions, that the directory had done nothing towards us in regard to its complaints, and he presumed would not.—p. li.

The conduct of the French Government has been nothing but a diversified scene of political Manœuvres; of Cajoling and threatening our Minister by turns. At one time it promises, and he is weak and vain enough to conceive, that he can obtain *any thing* from it; in short that he can turn it round as easy as

a top. At another time, when in the most humiliating stile he asks redress of our injuries, and the fulfilment of the Treaty, then some Phantom is raised, which renders him a mute, as it respects that Government, and he charges the failure of his exertions to misconduct of his own; although he can produce nothing in support of it, but its strict observance of the Neutral conduct it had adopted, and a fixed determination not to be drawn into the War, which has been his and the aim of France.

Near seven months had now elapsed since the minister of foreign affairs communicated to me the discontent of the directory, on account of our treaty with England, and its decision to make the same known to our government by an envoy extraordinary, to be despatched to the United States; in the course of which time I had not received a single line from the Department of State (a letter of the 7th of January excepted, which applied to another subject) although I had regularly informed it of every incident that occurred; and although the crisis was a very important one, requiring the profound attention of the administration.—p. lii.

Admit no letter had got to hand in the time mentioned, or even that none had been written, what more than had been, could be said to refute the groundless objections, which the French Government had exhibited, against our Treaty with G. Britain? Was he not possessed (by reiterated communications) of the Sentiments of his own Governmt. on all the points of controversy? Was it necessary to repeat these again and again? Or did he expect that the Executive would declare the treaty Null and void?

In the beginning of November 1796, I received a letter from the Secretary of State of the 22d of August, announcing my recall by the president of the United States. In this letter the Secretary refers me for the motives of that measure to his former letter of the 13th of June. He adds, however, in *this* that the president was further confirmed in the propriety of that measure by other concurring circumstances, but of which he gave no detail.—p. liii.

His own reflections might have furnished him with these. No one who will read the documents which he refers to, attentively can be at a loss for them; much less those who have the evidence the Executive had that he was promoting the views of a party in his own Country that were obstructing every measure of the Administration, and by their attachment to France were hurrying it (if not with design, at least in its consequences) into a War with G Britain, in order to favour France.

In her [America's] foreign relations nothing is to be seen but the waste and pillage of her commerce, sometimes by several powers, always by some one power; and little less than anarchy at home; for the seeds of discontent, jealousy and disunion have been scattered throughout these States, in the course of few years past, with a wasteful hand. By what means then was this state of things produced, and why was it produced?—pp. lii, liv.

That is a bold assertion! and no compliment to the other departmts. of the Governt.

It is well known, that the executive administration has heretofore guided all our measures; pursuing, in many instances, a course of policy equally contrary to the public feeling, and the public judgment.—p. liv.

The instances ought to have been enumerated.

But, by this attack on me, a new topic has been raised for discussion, which has drawn the public attention from the conduct of the administration itself; for in consequence the only question now before the public seems to be, whether I have merited the censure thus pronounced upon me, by the administration, or have been dealt hardly by. But this was a mere political manœuvre, intended doubtless to produce that effect.—p. liv.

Self importance appears here.

Whether I have performed my duty to my country, as I ought to have done, in the various, contradictory, and embarrassing situations, in which I was placed by the administration, is a point upon which my country will determine, by the facts and documents submitted to it. Upon this point I fear not the result.—p. liv.

Nor does the Administration, for the same reason. The matter therefore is fairly at issue.

Nor should I, in respect to myself, add a word to the light which those documents contain, being willing so far as the propriety of my own conduct is involved, to submit the point to the judgment of my countrymen, upon the documents alone.—p. liv.

Of all the mistakes he has made, and bold assertions, none stands more prominent than this.

The secretary adds, it is true, in his letter of the 22d of August following, that there were other concurring circumstances, which confirmed the president in the propriety of the measure he had taken towards me; but these he did not *then* communicate, nor has he *since,* though called on to do it; nor has he communicated other testimony to support the charge already raised.—p. lv.

Neither the Constitution, the Laws, nor Usage, render it necessary for the Executive to assign his reasons. It is his duty to see the Laws (and Treaties are paramount to all others) executed, and the Interests of the U. States promoted; if then an Agent of his appointment is fd. incompetent, remiss in his duty, or pursuing wrong courses, it becomes his indispensable duty to remove him from Office; otherwise he would be responsible for the consequences. Such was Mr. Monroe in the estimation of the President upon trial of him.

These were the only letters, which I received from the department of State on that subject, after the treaty was submitted to the senate; or indeed before, except such as showed the fluctuating state of the executive mind respecting the ratification.—p. lvi.

The Executive mind never fluctuated a moment on any other ground than that of the Provision Order of G Britain, after the Treaty had been concluded on.

It will however be seen by a perusal of my discussion with the minister of foreign affairs, that I omitted nothing which either of those papers contained, which could be turned to any account.—p. lvi.

If it was not known, on what ground was the Admn. to have formed a judgment?

The first of these facts, it is true, was not then known to the secretary; for as the object, at that time contemplated by the committee, was not pursued, on account I presume of the change of government which took place immediately afterwards in France, and might possibly never be revived, I declined mentioning it to our administration from motives of delicacy to both governments; wishing, if to be avoided, that no such evidence of the discontent of France, should appear in my correspondence.—p. lvi.

Is not this keeping his own Government uninformed, and in ignorance of Facts? and of course a neglect of duty?

I believe no instance can be adduced, by the administration, of any counsel being asked or attention shewn on its part to the counsels of the French nation, from the commencement of the administration to the present day, nor to the counsels of a minister of that nation; one instance only excepted, in which his counsel was asked, but immediately rejected.—p. lvii.

To have asked counsel would have been improper; the refusal alluded to requires explanation; none is recollected.

In short he seems to have concluded, from the moment those letters were forwarded to me, that he had put that nation under my care, and if I did not keep *it* in order, that I merited censure.—p. lvii.

It was undoubtedly supposed that every Nation would be governed by its own contracts, and principles of justice, when then they departed from them, and a representation thereof was made, the expectation surely was not unreasonable that they would do what was incumbent on both.

I shall only observe upon it, that had I been called on for a proof of my activity and zeal, to preserve tranquillity between the two countries, I should have urged the delay of the French government to complain, discontented as it was, as a most satisfactory one. Indeed I do not know, before the government did complain, how I could produce any other.—p. lviii.

How does this accord with his frequent communications of their complaints; on which the letters he alludes to, were predicated?

My efforts produced an effect for a certain term only.—p. lviii.

What effect? Has our Citizens recd compensation for the injurious spoliations they have sustained? Was it deemed a boon to obtain by weak, feeble, and suppliant addresses, a repeal of Arrets, the passing of which was a violation of their Treaty with us?

A sufficient one, however, to have permitted the administration to interpose, and assist me.—p. lviii.

And what interposition was expected from the administration? Did he expect that it was to have annulled the Treaty; ask pardon for having made it, and enquire of France what more she required?

The course which I pursued was a plain one.—p. lix.

So it is believed, for the object he had in view: but not for the object of his Mission, or for the honor and dignity of his Country.

Yet it was known that the French government was jealous of the object of the mission which produced that treaty from the period of its nomination; that it suspected the treaty was founded upon principles injurious to France before its contents were seen; and that those suspicions were confirmed when they were seen.—p. lix.

Could it be expected by France, that this Ctry. would neglect its own Intts? would suffer all the evils arising (nearly) from a state of Warfare without an effort to obtain justice, and this too because she might *suspect* we were doing something wrong after assurance had been given in the Commencement that her rights should be saved? Why has France expected so much from us? Has she made us privy to any of her Acts and doings?

Has she before, or after, communicated what she meant to do, or had done in Treaties? Tho' not so powerful, we are as Independent as France.

Whether I contributed in any degree to divert the French government from opposing the ratification of that treaty, or taking its measures after the treaty was ratified, I will not pretend to say.—p. lix.

It is believed the truth here wd. not bear to be told or else the boast wd. not be wanting.

To determine this latter point, some attention is due to the conduct of the administration through every stage of this European controversy; for the whole of its conduct forms a system, which ought to be taken together, to judge correctly of its motives in any particular case.—p. lx.

Is this to be decided by assertion, or official documts? If the latter, why call this Book a "view of the conduct of the Executive of the U. States," when it relates only to the correspondence with him? if to the former is it to be judged of by his ignorant, partial, and party representations?

The first is the appointment of a person as minister plenipotentiary to France, in the commencement of the French revolution, who was known to be an enemy to that revolution, and a partizan of royalty; whereby the name and weight of America (no inconsiderable thing at that time in that respect) was thrown into the scale of kings, against that of the people and of liberty.—p. lx.

Was not Fr: (as has been observed before) at the time, and long after Mr. Morris's appointment, a monarchy? Whatever may have been his political Sentiments, he pursued steadily the honor and Interest of his Ctry. with zest and ability, and with respectful firmness asserted its rights. Had Mr. Monroe done the same, we should not have been in the situation we now are.

The connection between the two countries have gradually diminished, as the French revolution advanced, till at the time of his[33] recall it was reduced to a slight bond indeed.—p. lx.

[33] Gouverneur Morris.

Observe how irreconcilable this is with the declaration of the committee of Safety at the time of his reception. See page 23.[84]

Fourth, my appointment to the French republic.—p. lx.

And an unfortunate one it was.

It being known that, with other members of the senate, I had opposed in many instances the measures of the administration, particularly in that of the mission of Mr. Morris to France, and of Mr. Jay to London; from the apprehension those missions would produce, in our foreign relations, precisely the ill effect they did produce.—pp. lx, lxi.

Unpardonable, to appoint these men to Office, altho' of acknowledged first rate abilities, when they were of different political Sentiments from Mr. Monroe, whose judgmt. one wd. presume must be infallible.

The instructions that were given me to explain to the French government the motives of Mr. Jay's mission to London, not as an act of condescension on our part, at the demand of the French government, but of policy, *to produce tranquillity, and give satisfaction,* whilst the negotiation was depending; by which instructions, if the existence of a power to form a commercial treaty was not positively denied, yet *it* was withheld, and the contrary evidently implied.—p. lxi.

None but a person incompetent to judge, or blinded by party views, cd. have misconstrued as he did. But had Fr: a right to be made acqd. with the Private Instrs. of our Ministers?

The strong documents that were put in my possession at that period, by the administration, of its attachment to France and the French Revolution; so different from any thing before expressed.—p. lxi.

From wch. he has exhibited nothing but unfounded assertions to prove a departure; but the contrary from his references.

The resentment shewn by the administration on account of the publication of those documents; it having been intended they should *produce* their effect, *at the same time,* and yet be kept *secret.*—p. lxi.

Because it was as unnecessary as it was impolitic, to make a parade of them.

[84] Of the Arabic pagination of Monroe's *View.*

The appropriation bestowed on me by the administration when I made vehement pressures on the French government for a repeal of its decrees, under which our commerce was harassed, exhibiting a picture of its spoliations, &c. and the profound silence and inattention of the administration, when those decrees were repealed, and a disposition shown by that government to assist us in other cases.—p. lxi.

No vehement expressions were ever used; but supposing it; is it singular to commend a person for doing his duty? Did the complying with a demand of justice require it when our rights had been outrageously violated by a departure from it? The offer of aid to promote our views with Spain and Algiers was friendly, and if any benefit had been derived from it thanks wd. have followed.

The power given to Mr. Jay to form a commercial treaty with England, in the midst of a war, by a special mission, at a time when no such advance was made to treat on that subject with France, and her advances at best coolly received.—p. lxi.

The 1st. we had a right to do and the 2d. is denied; for advans. had been made repeatedly.

The witholding from me the contents of that treaty until after the meeting of the senate; notwithstanding the embarrassment to which I was, in the interim, personally exposed, in consequence of the explanations I had before given to the French government, by order of the administration, of the motives of the mission which produced it; which deportment proves clearly that the administration did not deal fairly with me from the commencement.—p. lxi.

None but a party man, lost to all sense of propriety would have asked such a thing; and, no other wd. have brot. himself into such a predicamt.

The submission of the treaty to Mr. Adet after the advice of the senate, before the ratification of the president; at a time when, as it appears by satisfactory documents, it was resolved to ratify it; which submission therefore was probably not made to obtain Mr. Adet's counsel, in which light it would have been improper, especially as it had been withheld

from his government; but to repel an objection to the candor of the administration, in its conduct in preceding stages.—pp. lxi., lxii.

And what motive cd be more candid or laudable? or be a stronger argument of the Executive belief of its fairness towds. Fr? To ask Mr. Adets advice wd have been strange indeed.

The character of the treaty itself, by which (according to the administration) we have departed from the modern rule of contraband, with respect to many articles made free by modern treaties.—p. lxii.

The Treaty in this respect leaves things precisely upon the footing they were before, with an explanation favourable to the U. States, and not injurious to France.

The conduct of the administration after the ratification of the treaty, being in all cases irritable towards France.—p. lxii.

In what instances irritable? Upon a just interpretation it cod. not offend France. But it was known at the same time, that there were the most unjustifiable means used to make it have this effect.

I should not notice my recall, being in itself a circumstance too *trivial* to merit attention, if it were not for the state in which our affairs were in my hands, when my recall was decided; being at a period, when it appeared I had succeeded in quieting the French government for the time, and was likely to do it effectually.—p. lxii.

For this there is no better proof, than his own opinion; whilst there is abundant evidence of his being a mere tool in the hands of the French government, cajoled and led away always by unmeaning assurans of Friends.

To be left there to that precise time, and then withdrawn and censured, seems to authorise a presumption, that I was left there in the first instance in the expectation I would not defend that treaty, and in consequence whereof a rupture would ensue, and recalled afterwards, when it was known I had done my duty, and was likely to prevent a rupture.—p. lxii.

The contrary of all this appears from his own words, I mean the official part of it.

Whether the nature of this crisis contributed in any degree to influence our measures, by repelling us from France and attracting us towards England, is submitted for others to determine.—p. lxiii.

As he has such a happy knack at determining, he ought not to have let this opportunity escape him.

Be this, however, as it may, it is nevertheless obvious, that the policy itself, was, at best, shortsighted and bad.—p. lxiii.

Posterity will judge of this. Mr. Monroes opinion is not the standard by wch. it will be judged.

To stand well with France through the whole of this European war was the true interest of America; since great advantage was to be derived from it in many views, and no injury in any.—p. lxiii.

But to stand well with Fr. was, in other words, to quit neutral grd; and disregard every other consideration. relying wholly on that nation; and this was what Monroe was aiming at.

What would have been the condition of these States had France been conquered, and the coalesced powers triumphed, it is easy to perceive.—p. lxiii.

In turn, what will be the consequences of Fr overturning so many Governments? and making partition of so many Countries? One, it is supposed is right; the other wrong; from the Actors in the Drama.

For if she was conquered, it did not seem likely, that we should accomplish any of our objects with those powers; nor could we profit of her success otherwise than by preserving a good understanding with her.—p. lxiv.

Every reasonable and just measure, consistent with the Neutral policy of this governmt, approved by the people, has been adopted to preserve a good understanding with Fr: but nothing short of hostility with G Britain can accomplish this.

The beneficial effects too of this stipulation, which was respected by France at the time that treaty passed, was most sensibly felt upon our navigation and commerce; for in consequence of it, we were then become the principal carriers of the enemies of France.—p. lxiv.

Was this observed by France any longer than it suited her convenience? Has she not *herself* declared the contrary in explicit language?

It was highly for the interest of America to improve our footing in that commerce, and easy was it to have done so, had due attention been paid to the necessary means of improving it.—p. lxiv.

These, it is presumed, were what he had suggested, viz: measures which must inevitably have led to War with G: Britn.

Nor was it difficult to stand well with France through the whole of this crisis, and profit by her fortunes, without the smallest possible loss or even hazard. The demonstration of this position is complete; for we know that although our ground was once lost by the administration, in the course of the present war, it was nevertheless afterwards recovered; although it is much easier to preserve a friendship, whilst at the height, than to recover it after it is gone.—p. lxiv.

Here is a pretty smart compliment paid himself, at the expence of the Administration; but the truth of the case is, that while France cajoled him by unmeaning compliments and promises, which cost them nothing, he conceived his Influence to be such as to commd. any thing; when, on the other hand, urged by the Orders he recd, to press for the restitution of our Captured property, they alarmed him with their discontents and his efforts stood suspended, these discontts. were charged to the Admtn.

And how was it recovered? Not by any address on my part, for I pretend to none.—p. lxv.

strange indeed! when by his adroit management he has parried the evils which the weakness, or wickedness of the Executive was likely to involve this Country in, during the whole of his Ministry. But is it uncharitable to ask Mr. M. for the Instances by wch. the documents to wch. he alludes have been counteracted by the Administration? for it would puzzle him, or any one else, to find a sentiment in the whole of the Secre-

tary of States Letters to him repugnant thereto. Surely the reclamation of property unlawfully captured, and not abrogating as he was disposed to do, important articles of the Treaty cannot stand in the catalogue of Mis-deeds. It is conceived that he has, by mistake, laid his hands upon letters of Mr. Bache, Doctr. Logan[35] or some other of that class of correspondants, and attending more to the contents, and his wishes, than to the signature, have realized their surmizes.

The administration admits she did not wish us to embark in the war. Perhaps this was admitted to preclude the claim of merit for not wishing it.—p. lxv.

France might not have wished us to embark in the War by an absolute declan. of it, but she and Mr. M also did every thing in their power to induce us to pursue measures wch. must inevitably have produced it.

Had France been conquered, to what objects that administration would have aspired, has fortunately, by her victories, been left a subject for conjecture only.—p. lxv.

An insinuation as impudent, as it is unfounded.

We might have stood well with France, avoiding all the losses we have sustained from her; enjoying the benefit of the principles of free trade, and even appeared as an advocate for those principles, and without going to any extremity.—p. lxvi.

Not by pursuing the modes he suggested.

And instead of a situation so advantageous, so honorable, so satisfactory to our country, what is that into which our government has conducted us.—p. lxvi.

The French Party he shd. have said had he spoken properly.

Long will it be before we shall be able to forget what we are, nor will centuries suffice to raise us to the high ground from which we have fallen.—p. lxvi.

[35] Dr. George Logan.

And to accomplish which Mr. Monroe has been a principal Actor.

They would most probably have pressed . . . after the example was given.—p. 89.[36]

Were they entitled to this by Treaty? If not, upon what ground could they have pressed it?

For a while, as it was circulated only in private . . . by making the necessary explanation only to those who mentioned it to me.—pp. 89, 90.

He could make extraordinary efforts here, to counteract disadvantageous opinions before they were announced to him *at all;* but as it respected the growing discontents proceeding from the Treaty with G B. he conceived it necessary to wait until he should receive them Officially.

He[37] was sent to England upon an especial business only; to demand reparation for injuries, and to which his authority was strictly limited.—p. 90.

His Instructions authorized no such declaration with respect to the limitation.

To day, however, I was favored with yours of 28th of the same month, by which I find you consider yourself at liberty to communicate to me the contents of the treaty.—pp. 113, 114.

The heads only of the principal articles; and that in confidence.

Mr. Purviance is from Maryland, a gentleman of integrity and merit, and to whom you may commit whatever you may think proper to confide with perfect safety.—p. 114.

A modest request this! but not extraordinary, as it was to be laid before the Frh Government; nothing short of which being able to satisfy it.

[36] The first page of the section headed "Instructions and Correspondence, &c" of Monroe's *View*, which has a marginal note by Washington, is 89, and, following Ford, only the beginning and ending of long sentences, on which Washington has commented, are here printed.

[37] John Jay.

Our former minister was not only without the confidence of the government, but an object of particular jealousy and distrust.—p. 119.

Principally because he asserted our rights and claimed redress.

In addition to which it was suspected, that we were about to abandon them for a connection with England, and for which purpose *principally,* it was believed that Mr. Jay had been sent there.—p. 119.

On what ground the suspicion? When it was a notorious fact that [we] were upon the worst terms short of open War with G B

My first reception was marked with circumstances which fully demonstrated these facts . . . I was viewed with a jealous eye, and kept at the most awful distance.—p. 119, 120.

His comns with the Fr. Governmt. contradict this; and accts satisfactorily for the delay of the reception as may be seen by reference thereto.

Into what consequences this policy, which was hostile to us, might lead . . . Thus circumstanced, what course did policy dictate that I should pursue?—p. 119, 120.

As nothing but Justice, and the fulfilment of a contract was asked, it dictated firmness, conducted with temperance in the pursuit of it.

The doors of the committee, as already mentioned, were closed against me.—p. 120.

This apprs nowhere but in his own conjectures, and *after* assertions for from his own acct *at the time* the delay of his reception was satisfactorily explained and had been the cause of another waiting 6 weeks. See his letter of the 25 Augt. page 16. In which he also says "I have reason to believe it was the general desire that I should be received as soon as possible, and with every demonstration of respect for the Country I represented."

Or was it to be presumed, that the declarations of friendship which they contained, would produce in the councils of that body any change of sentiment, advised as it had been, and armed as it was, with a series of contrary evidence, and in which it would place a greater confidence?—p. 120.

By whom were they advised? and what evidences are alluded to?

If then our good understanding with France was broken, or the necessary concert between us incomplete, Britain would only have to amuse us till the crisis had passed, and then defy us.—pp. 121, 122.

Was a good understanding to be interrupted because we were endeavoring to live in Peace with all the world? and were only asking of France what we were entitled to by Treaty?

And trusted . . . that no concession would be made to my discredit, in favour of that administration.[38]—p. 122.

It is not understood what is here meant by concession. None was asked, or any though of being made.

Had the fortunes of France been unprosperous upon my arrival here, the motive for greater caution would have been stronger. But the case was in every respect otherwise. Her fortunes were at the height of prosperity, and those of her enemies decisively on the decline.—p. 122.

It will not be denied, it is presumed, that there had been, and might again be grt. Vicissitudes in their affairs; both externally and internally; Prudence and policy therefore required that the Government of the U. States should move with great circumspection.

Upon the third point but little need be said. I have some time since transmitted to you a decree which carried the treaty into effect, and yielded the point in question.—p. 123.

A very singular mode truly to obtain it; but look to letter of Novr 7th 1794 Pages 58 and 59 and judge whether it wd not have been accomplished sooner if he had desired it. And what

[38] Of Great Britain.

can he mean by not conceding when in explicit terms he has declared the point, if upon consideration they desired it wou'd have been given up with pleasure?

And I now declare, that I am of opinion, if we stood firmly upon that ground, there is no service within the power of this republic to render, that it would not render us, and upon the slightest intimation.—p. 123.

That is to say, if we wd. not press *them* to do us Justice, but have yielded to *their* violations, they would have aided us in every measure which would have cost them: *Nothing*.

For at that time I had reason to believe, that it contemplated to take under its care, and to provide for, our protection against Algiers; for the expulsion of the British from the western posts.—p. 124.

By what means were the British to be expelled from the western Posts by the French, without first conquering Canada, or passg. through the Territory of the United States? and would not the latter by the Law of Nations, been a cause of War? The truth is, Mr. Monroe was cajoled, flattered, and made to believe strange things. In return he did, or was disposed to do whatever was pleasing to that Nation; reluctantly urging the rights of his own.

How then does his [39] conduct correspond with his own doctrine; having in his three several letters communicated a particular article, and *promised* in the second the whole [treaty].—p. 140.

This is a mistake, no such promise is to be found in the 2nd Letter. See page 105. Novr 25th.

In short, had I been in a private station, is it probable he would have written or communicated any thing to me on the subject?—p. 140.

The intention was to enable him on the veracity and authority of the negotiator of the Treaty to assert that there was nothing contained in it repugnant to our engagemt with France and that was all that they or he had a right to expect.

[39] John Jay.

But in reviewing now his several letters, it is difficult to ascertain what he intended to do, or what his real object was in writing them: For he says in these, that he is not at liberty to disclose the purport of his treaty, and yet *promises* it: That he will give me the contents or principal heads, to enable me to satisfy this government; but yet will give them only in *confidence,* and of course under an injunction, that will put it out of my power to give the satisfaction intended.—p. 141.

Because nothing short of a *complete* copy, and that for the *avowed* purpose of laying it, before ratifn, before the French Governt. wd be accepted.

I am likewise persuaded, that if I had been authorised to declare, generally, from my own knowledge (being the minister on the ground, and responsible for the truth of the declaration) that the treaty did not interfere with out engagements with this republic, but that being a mere project, subject to rejection, &c. it ought not to be published, it would have been satisfactory. And had the communication been sent to me, even in this last stage, such would have been my conduct, and most certainly such the effect.—p. 142.

This from the tenor of his conduct was not to be expected.

I had then gained such an insight into their councils, as to satisfy me; that all our great national objects, so far as they were connected with this Republic, were most easily to be secured by a frank and liberal deportment, than a cool and reserved one.—p. 142.

It was the policy of the Frh to make him believe this that they might with more ease draw from him such information as they wanted.

That respect, and my[40] obligations to observe it, will not permit me to give, without the permission of their government, a copy of the instrument in question to any person, or for any purpose; and by no means for the purpose of being submitted to the consideration and judgment of the councils of a foreign nation, however friendly.—p. 144.

Nothing short of this wd subserve Mr Monroes views. The request therefore was with great propriety refused.[41]

[40] Jay's.
[41] By Jay.

In consequence I waited on the diplomatic section of the committee, and made the representation as above, repeating Mr. Jay's motive for withholding the communication, as urged by himself: "That it belonged to the sovereign power alone to make it, &c."—p. 147.

And this ought to have satisfied the French Government; It was as much as that Government would have done for us, or any other nation.

I thought it best to send the paper in by my secretary, Mr. Gauvain.—p. 148.

Here is a striking instance of his folly! This Secretary of his was a Foreigner; it is believed a Frenchman. Introduced no doubt to his confidence and Papers for the sole purpose of communicating to the Directory the Secrets of his Office.

Transactions of old standing, I have not lately formally pressed, because I knew that the government was embarrassed on the score of finance, and because I thought it would be better to wait the issue of the business depending with you in June next.—p. 160.

The sufferings of our Citizens is always a secondary consideration when put in competition wth. the embarrassments of the French.

The claim of 15,000 dollars I mentioned long since would be admitted without a word, and that it ought to be so understood at the treasury. I omitted it in my early applications to this government, because I wished to progress with the greater objects first, and more latterly, for the reasons above suggested.—p. 161.

Here is a disregard shewn to repeated orders of his government, to press this matter.

As I have had no communication with this government upon the subject of this treaty since its contents were known, it is of course impossible for me to say what the impression it has made is.—p. 207.

What inference is to be drawn from this declaration? What light is it in Philadelphia that is to discover the sense of the French Government in Paris, before it was divulged there?

except the Conduct of the French Party by whom the wheels were to be moved?

For this purpose, then, the person to whom we commit the trust, should possess the confidence of this government.—pp. 209, 210.

Has an eye to himself it is presumed. If he does not mean himself here, it is not difficult to guess who the other character is, marked out by this description.

But can we accomplish what we wish by the fortunes of France, by any negociation we can set on foot, without any effort of our own; and if any such effort is to be made, of what kind must it be?—p. 210.

War, was the suggestion, and is here repeatd. This has no horrors when waged in *favour* of Fra: but dreadful even in thot. when it is against her.

As Mr. Fenwick has always proved himself to be an useful, indeed a valuable, officer in the station he holds, and as the error imputed to him might be the effect of judgment only, and which I think it was, I have thought I could not better forward your views or the interest of my country, than by continuing him in the discharge of the duties of his office, till the President shall finally decide in his case.—p. 297.

Mr. Fenwick[42] was accused of covering by the American Flag French money under false Invoices; but Mr. M could readily excuse this breach of faith in his office.

I observed, further, that France had gained credit by her late conduct towards us: For whilst England had seized our vessels, and harassed our trade, she had pursued an opposite, and more magnanimous policy; and which had produced, and would continue to produce, a correspondent effect, by encreasing our resentment against England, and attachment to France. But as soon as the latter should assume an hostile or menacing deportment towards us, would this motive diminish, and the argument it furnished lose its force.—p. 313.

England before the late treaty with the U States, and France were different in their Commercial Relations with America.

[42] James Fenwick, United States consul at Bordeaux, France

I asked him, what were his objections to the treaty; and to which he replied, as before, in general rather than in precise terms.—p. 314.

For the best reason imaginable; because none could be urged that had any weight in them.

The courts of justice in the United States have taken, and continue daily to take, cognizance of prizes, which our privateers conduct into their ports, notwithstanding the express clause of the treaty, which prohibits it.—p. 321.

Only in cases where the Captors have contravened the Treaty, acted contrary to the Law of Nations, or our own Municipal Laws.

The admission of English vessels of war into the ports of the United States, against the express stipulation of the 17th article of the treaty; that is to say, when they have made prizes upon the republic, or its citizens.—p. 322.

A single instance *only* of a Prize being brot in is recollected, and against it strong remonstrance was made; without Prizes ships of war are not restrained by the Treaty.

The consular convention, which makes a part of our treaties, is equally unexecuted in two of its most important clauses: The first, which grants to our consuls the right of judging exclusively all controversies which take place between French citizens, has become illusory, from a defect in the law which gives to our consuls the means of executing their judgments.—p. 322.

No interruption has been given to this. To carry their own judgmts into effect has constituted the difficulty, and in its nature is nearly impossible to do it.

The judges charged, by the law, to deliver mandats of arrest, have lately required the presentation of the original register of the equipage, in despite of the 5th article of the treaty, which admits in the tribunals of the two powers copies certified by the consuls.—p. 322.

This is the Fr. construction of the Art. The Judiciary of the U. States interprets it otherwise; over whom the Executive have no controul.

The arrestation in the port of Philadelphia, in the month of August, 1795, of the Captain of the Corvette Cassius, for an act committed by him on the high seas . . . violates moreover the right of nations, the most common; which puts the officers of public vessels under the safeguard of their flag.—p. 322.

This arrestation was for an offence committed against the law of Nations and those of the United States, and has been explained over and over again. See the Secretary of States letter, 13th. of June p. 364.

The arrestation, in the waters of the United States, of the packet boat in which the minister sailed: The search made in his trunks, with the avowed object of seizing his person and his papers, merited an example.—p. 323.

What more could the U S do than was done? See the Secy of States letter of Sep 14th 1795 p 292.

Third complaint. The treaty concluded in November, 1794, between the United States, and Great Britain. It would be easy to prove, that the United States, in that treaty, have sacrificed, *knowingly* and *evidently*, their connection with the republic; and the rights, the most essential and least contested, of neutrality.—p. 323.

These are assertions upon false premises. Strange indeed would it be if the U. States could not make a treaty without the consent of the Fr. Govt. when that Treaty infracted no prior engagemt. but expressly recognizes and confirms them.

To sacrifice, exclusively to this power, the objects of which are necessary for the equipment and construction of vessels, is not this to depart evidently from the principles of neutrality?—p. 323.

They have given *nothing*, but left those principles precisely upon the ground they stood before the Treaty; with some explanations favourable to the U. States and not injurious to France. They have made nothing contraband that was not contraband before, nor was it in their power to obtain from G. B. a change, which the armed Neutrality (as it was called) could not when combined accomplish.

I have the pleasure to inform you,[43] that . . . the directoire has done nothing . . . and . . . would do nothing.—p. 235.

How strangely inconsistant are his Accts?

After this, Citizen Minister, the executive directory thinks itself founded, in regarding the stipulations of the treaty of 1778, which concern the neutrality of the flag, as altered and suspended in their most essential parts, by this act, and that it would fail in its duty, if it did not modify a state of things which would never have been consented to, but upon the condition of the most strict reciprocity.—p. 356.

From hence it follows, that if A makes a contract with B, and C will not make a similar one with him, B will not be bound by his contract although the cases are unconnected wh. each other.

You will observe, that in my reply to your complaints, I have heretofore confined myself strictly to the subject of those complaints; never going beyond them, to expose in return the injuries we have received from this Republic, in the course of the present war.—pp. 358, 359.

All this he ought to have done, and was instructed to do in the beginning, and had it been urged with firmness and temperance might have prevented the evils which have taken place since.

Because I was disposed to yield every possible accommodation to your present exigencies that my duty would permit.—p. 359.

And a great deal more than his duty permitted.

I do not wish to be understood as assuming to myself the merit of this delay.—p. 371.

By implication he has done this in a variety of Instances.

I well know, that I have done every thing in my power, and from the moment of my arrival to the present time, to promote harmony between the two republics, and to prevent this from taking any step which might possibly disturb it.—p. 371.

That is, by not pressing the execution of the Treaty; and for compensation to our suffering Citizens. This, no doubt, was

[43] The Secretary of State.

accommodating, and pleasing one party at the Expence of the other.

One of the members however observed, that the abandonment of the principle that *free ships made free goods,* in favor of England, was an injury of a very serious kind to France; and which could not be passed by unnoticed.—p. 374.

Did France expect that the U. States could compel G. Brit. to relinqh. this right under the Law of Nas: while the other Maritime Powers of Europe (as has been observed before) when combined for the purpose were unable to effect [it]? Why then call it an abandonmt.

He told me explicitly, they had no object with respect to Canada for themselves, but wished it separated from England: That they were not anxious about Louisiana, and if they took it, it would be only in case of a war between Spain and England . . . That, with respect to our interior, we had no cause to be uneasy; for there did not exist, in the breast of a member of the government, an intention to wish to disturb it.—p. 377.

This is all external, and a flimsy covering of their designs. Why else send their emissaries through that country to inculcate different principles among the Inhabitants a fact that could be substantiated.

But, Citizen Minister, you know too well from what side the first blow was given to that friendship, which our two nations had sworn to.—p. 390.

Yes *Citizen* and every one else who can read, are acquainted with facts, and your violations of our Rights under the Treaty knows it also!

It shall not be the fault of the executive directory, Citizen Minister, if the political relations between the two nations are not speedily reestablished on the footing they ought to be, and if the clouds, which cast a gloom on our alliance, be not dispelled, by frank and loyal explanations; to which it will be anxious to listen above all, Citizen Minister, when they shall be made through you.—p. 391.

The treatment of our Minister, Generl. Pickney, is a pretty evidence of this. The thot. of parting with Mr Monroe was insupportable by them! [HV.L.]

## *To ALEXANDER SMITH

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1798.

Sir: I am in want of Plank and Scantling as mentioned below. If you can supply me, the sooner I receive them the more convenient it will be for my purposes; and the money shall be paid on delivery. At any rate I pray you to let me know whether I may depend upon being supplied by you, and in how short a time, if you are able to do it. I am etc.

### Plank—Pine

4,000 feet of Inch and quarter pine plank; 1500 of which to be 18 feet in length, for flooring, 800 to be in length, 8, 12, 16 and 20 feet, to suit particular work, the residue may be indiscriminate in length.

### Scantling of Pine

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sleepers | 12, | to be 17 ft. | long | 10 by 4 | Inches |
| | 12. | do 15. | do | 10 by 4 | do. |
| | 18. | do 9. | do | 10 by 4 | do. |
| Joists | 12. | do 17. | do | 9 by 3. | do. |
| | 12 | do 15. | do | 9 by 3. | do. |
| | 18 | do 9. | do | 9 by 3. | do. |
| Studs | 10 | to be 11 feet | long, and | 6 by 4 | Inches |
| | 26 | do 10 ft. | do. | 6 by 4 | do. |
| Rafters | 30 | do 23 ft. | do | 6 by 4 Inchs. at one end and 4 by 4 at the other | |
| Beams | 15 | do 21 ft. | do | 5 by 4 | do. |

If good 18 Inch Shingles can be furnished the Vessel may be filled with any number not exceeding twelve thousand. Or, if shingles are not to be had, the load may be compleated with good Inch Plank not exceeding 3,000 feet.

If the flooring plank (at least) could be obtained of that which is seasoned it would be most desirable.

## *To GOVERNOR JOHN HENRY

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1798.

Dear Sir: As you were so obliging upon a former occasion to aid me in obtaining Plank from Mr. Smith of Virginia; as I am in want of more, and some Scantling; and as my letter to him may not pass through so safe a channel as by committing it to your care, I take the liberty of using this freedom, persuaded you will excuse it.

If to relax, and diversify the scene a little you should find it convenient and agreeable to yourself to extend your walks to the Potomac, I should be very happy in seeing you under my vine and fig tree, being with much esteem etc.

## *To HENRY HOLLINGSWORTH

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1798.

Dr. Sir: Your favour of the 25th Ulto. with a piece of cloth of your own Manufacture, were presented to me a day or two ago, by Mr. Law.

For your polite attention to and kind recollection of me in sending the latter, I pray you to accept my best thanks, and an assurance of my wearing it with pleasure. The cloth is of an exceeding good texture, and well dyed; and I am persuaded will wear well; and let me add that no one will wish you

greater success in the prosecution of your plan than I shall; for it has always been my opinion that the United States will be independent in name *only* until essential Arts and Manufacturies are so established in them, as to subserve our purposes in case of War, with any of those Nations on whom we rely for our supplies. With esteem etc.

## *To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 23d. Ulto. addressed to the care of Mr. Edmd. Lee has been received, and I feel obliged by your endeavours to discover the genealogical descent from Lawrence Washington, the young brother of our Ancestor John; and for your enquiries after flour barrel Staves. If any material information should be obtained relatively to the first matter, I shall be obliged by the communication thereof.

At a crisis like the present, and enveloped as our foreign relations seem to be in clouds and darkness, it is not easy to decide on what to ask, or what to take, for the produce of our fields. By the last Accts. from Paris, our Commissioners to that Republic had not been received, nor was it likely they would be; and appearances, as far as it is to be infered from the Presidts. message to Congress on the 19th. Ulto, indicated nothing good, and afford no hope of redress for the injuries we have received from violated Treaties, and the arbitrary and unjust measures of the French Directory. Under these circumstances, and the present uncertain state of our political concerns, it would be hazardous to offer you any advice with respect to the disposal of your Corn: but was I in your place, I should, I believe, be more inclined to take the best price I could obtain *now* than wait for a *better market sometime hence;* and I should be more solicitous to secure the fulfilment of the contract than to

enhance the price of the article if credit is given, and without giving it, the sale will be dull: such is the state of Mercantile transactions, occasioned by the outrageous spoliations it has sustained, and the consequent distresses of those who have suffered by them. Under this view of the subject, and upon these principles too, I have disposed of my flour: the only article I had for market.

In speaking of Corn, and knowing that you raise a quantity every year for sale, it has occurred to me to ask, if you would be inclined to contract for 500 barrels annually, for the term of five or Seven years, and at what price. My lands are not congenial with this Crop, and are much injured by the growth of it; having an under stratum of hard clay impervious to water, which penetrating that far and unable to descend lower, sweeps off the upper soil in the furrows, although the land is generally level, and runs it, in spite of all I can do to prevent it, into injurious and eye-sore gullies. Nothing but the indispensable use of this food for my negros (and indeed for Hogs) has restrained me from discontinuing the growth of it altogether, or in small well improved lots only, but the uncertainty of obtaining a given quantity, at stated periods of the year, and from a person on whose ability and punctuality I could confidently rely.

I am not insensible that the moment is unpropitious (after the unnatural high prices which grain of all kinds has borne, from the peculiar circumstances of the times) for the *purchaser* to fix a price that is to prevail for five or seven years; and I know of no mode, if to be ascertained at the time of delivery, or a designated period of the year by which the currt. price can be determined, that might not liable to objection, or subject to disputes.

Having, however, brought the matter fairly to your view, you may, after giving it a consideration, let me have your sentiments

thereon. A contract with *you,* would put me upon a certainty of getting the Corn, and you upon a certainty of the money for it, on the terms to be stipulated in a written contract.

With best wishes for you and yours in which the family here unite I remain etc.[44]

## *To EDMOND LEE

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th. Ulto. was presented to me yesterday.

The apology you have offered for breaking the Seal of my Nephews letter, to me, is perfectly satisfactory. The like has often happened to myself.

I hope I shall see General Lee before he leaves this part of the Country. The enclosed for Mr. Corbin Washington, I request the favour of you to be caused to be delivered to him before he leaves Alexandria (and the sooner the better) if he is not at your house. With esteem, etc.[45]

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 25th. Ulto is before me, but I have not yet heard of the arrival of Captn. Tice, at Alexandria.

Not being able to wait any longer for Oznabrigs, I have made the purchase of what I stood in need of, in Alexandria, further enquiry therefore after this article and the price of it, may be discontinued by you, in Philadelphia, on my Account.

The Bills for the other articles, purchased by you, with the A/c currant, have been received. By the latter, a balance of

[44] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[45] From a copy kindly furnished by Mrs. S. T. Kidder, jr., of Meigs, Ga.

$138.38 appears against me; but as interest on my Certificates became due the first of this month, and you will have the Coach and other things to sell, belonging to me, I have not remitted it.

About the middle of August, the term for which my present Miller is engaged, will expire; and it is not probable it will be renewed, as he is not, in the first place, though a pretty good Miller, the most industrious man in the world; and in the 2d. place, requires an increase of Wages.

His present wages, and allowance of Provisions are. $166 2/3 pr. ann, the first: the 2d. ample, but specified. A Cow is allowed to afford Milk, and wood is furnished and laid at his door; the house is comfortably large, and a Garden adjoining to it. In short I do not see that any convenience is wanting that a person in that line, can reasonably require.

The Mr. Lewis's, formerly, have aided me in procuring Millers; perhaps they could recommend one now. Mr. Oliver Evans is much in that line, to him I have wrote, as he is acquainted with my Mill, having fixed some of her Works, and understanding that he lives in Philada. I leave the letter open for your perusal before delivery, wishing you to converse with him as well as the Mr. Lewis's on the subject of it, and inform me of the result. My enquiries, as you will perceive, go no further at present than to discover a *fit* character, who would be willing to engage on the terms here mentioned, and could be hereby the middle of Augt. With esteem, etc. [H.S.P.]

## *To OLIVER EVANS

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1798.

Sir: As you have some knowledge of my Mill and much in the way of being acquainted with Millers, I have taken the liberty of asking, if you could recommend a good one, of honest sober character, to me.

My present one stands engaged to the middle of August only, and it is not probable the agreement will continue longer; because, altho' he is a pretty good Miller, and I have no charge against his honesty, he is far from being an active and industrious man; and because he is endeavouring to raise his wages, which the work of the Mill will not enable me to do.

His present lay is $166 2/3 dollars pr. annum and provision of Meat, Bread and Fish found him in sufficient quantities, and by specification, to prevent dispute. He has a Cow allowed him for Milk, and wood without restriction, laid at his door. His house, Garden and other conveniences you will recollect are adequate to a man in his line; and a Coopers shop at hand. and a considerable distillery at the ...[46] but this is not mentioned by way of inducement... just commenced work.

With this information, if, on the term before mentioned you could recommend a character that you conceive would suit me, it would be doing me a kindness. A married man with a small family would be preferred; and it would be needless to observe, *to you,* how essential honesty, sobriety and industry are in the person employed. It is not my wish that a Miller should be absolutely engaged ... until the middle of August; but I am desirous of knowing and as soon as enquiry can be made, if a good one could be had, on what terms, and whether he would be able to be here by the time above stated. This letter will go ... Colo. Clemt. Biddle. of Phila. of whom I have requested to converse with you on the subject matter there of ... I am etc.

## *To HUGH WEST

Mount Vernon, April 11, 1798.

Sir: In reply to your letter of this date, I inform you that when I left the Chair of Government, I resolved not to intermeddle

[46] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [ . . .] are illegible.

in any appointments which should take place by vacancies, in Offices, thereafter. From this determination I have not departed in any instance, although sollicited for recommendations in an hundred.

If the certificate of your good behaviour (while you wrote in my Office in Philadelphia) would avail any thing, you have my free permission to use it; and wishing you success in your application for the Office lately occupied by Mr. Vincent Gray,[47] and well in every other respect. I remain with esteem, etc.[48]

## *To PATRICK O'FLYNN[49]

Mount Vernon, April 15, 1798.

Sir: About the middle of August, the term of my present Miller will expire, and it is not probable the agreement will be renewed; first, because he wants to have his wages raised, next because the work of the Mill will not afford it; and lastly, because though a good Miller, he is far from being an industrious man.

The wages, and allowances I now give, and am willing to continue, are $166 2/3 pr Ann: flour, Meat, fish, &c. ample; but the quantity of each to be specified, to prevent disputes. A Cow to afford Milk, and wood sufficient, to be laid at his door; A house (and Garden adjoining) close by the Mill, and a Coopers shop at a convenient distance from it, all adequate to the wants of a person in that line.

Knowing that no place is more likely to furnish a good Miller than Brandywine, and that you must be acquainted with the Millers there on whose recommendation of one you could

[47] Surveyor for the district of Alexandria, Va., and inspector of the revenue for the port of same.

[48] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by the Department of State.

[49] Of Wilmington, Del.

depend, I give you the trouble of receiving this letter, praying you to make the enquiry, and to inform me of the result.

You will perceive, that I have no call for a Miller until the middle of August; of course no engagement is to be entered into until you hear from me again; but it is essential I should be informed (and soon after the result of your enqueries are known) whether a *good Miller,* who can be recommended for his honesty sobriety and industry could be had; whether one would engage to be here by the middle of August, and on the terms before mentioned.

My Mill stands at the head of a Creek about nine miles below Alexandria, and is accessable by Boats; the Packets therefore, which ply between that place and Philadelphia pass within view of it; and afford a ready, easy and cheap conveyance for Passengers between the two. I should prefer a married man with a small family to a single person. I hope your family are well. I am etc.

## To GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

Mount Vernon, April 15, 1798.

Dear Washington: Your letter of the 2d instant come duly to hand, and gave us pleasure (as you may naturally conceive from our solicitude for your well-doing) at hearing that you had got over a short indisposition; was happy in your present situation; and going on well in your studies. Prosecute these with diligence and ardor, and you will, sometime hence, be more sensible than now of the rich harvest you will gather from them.

It gave us pleasure, also, to hear that you are kindly treated by the families in Annapolis. Endeavor by a prudent, modest, and discreet conduct, to merit a continuance of it, but do not suffer

attentions of this sort to withdraw you from your primary pursuits.

Young Mr. C [50] came here about fortnight ago to dinner, and left us next morning after breakfast. If his object was such as you say has been reported, it was not declared here; and therefore, the less said upon the subject, particularly by your sister's friends, the more prudent it will be until the subject develops itself more.

The family at this place are much as usual; your sister Peter, and her children are here, and Mr. Peter occasionaly so. Dr. Stuart is also here at present, and informs us that your mother and the family (one of your sisters excepted) are very well. Mr. Law has been here, and leaving Mrs. Law at Baltimore, went back for her, and is not returned that we have heard of. This is all the domestic news which occurs to me; and, therefore, with every good wish of those I have enumerated, and particularly the blessings of your grandmamma, I remain etc.[51]

## *To JAMES LLOYD [52]

Mount Vernon, April 15, 1798.

Sir: For your kindness in forwarding a copy of the dispatches from our Envoys in France to the Government here, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

What a scene of corruption and profligacy has these Communications disclosed in the Directors of a People with whom the United States have endeavoured to Treat upon fair, just and honorable ground!

If they should be attended with the effect of "Speedily uniting our fellow-Citizens in a firm determination to support our

[50] George Calvert.
[51] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington*.
[52] Senator from Maryland.

Government, and preserve our Independence" as you seem to expect, it wd. indeed be cause for much congratulation and no one would rejoice more at such an event than I should;—But—I wish it may be so. With esteem etc.

## *To WILLIAM BOOKER

Mount Vernon, April 15, 1798.

Sir: I am sorry to inform you that, the Machine you erected for me at the Union farm has by no means answered your expectation, or mine.

You will recollect, that in its first performance; under your own direction, the execution in the course of the day fell short of 50 bushls., it has been growing worse, until I was obliged to disuse it, not being able to get out 25 bushls. in the day; and before 500 bushls. were got out, it had expended two bands which cost between eight and £10.

I do not give you these details by way of complaint: other motives have induced them. 1st, a late Advertisement of yours, by which it appears that new, and important discoveries, or improvements have been made; 2d, a wish to erect another, but discouraged by the operation of the last; and 3d, (which more immediately affects yourself) from the unfavorable impression the failure has made upon those who, in these parts, were desirous of adopting them for the purpose of getting out their grain and came to see mine work. I should be glad to hear from you on this subject as soon as convenient, and am etc.

## *To FERDINAND FEVOT

Mount Vernon, April 15, 1798.

Sir: The papers which you were pleased to transmit to me from Baltimore are, agreeably to your request, returned.

Not perceiving what has been your object in addressing such sentiments as your letter of the 4th instant contain, and not being conscious of having merited the reprehension you have judged it expedient to inflict on me, I shall not give you the trouble of reading an answer in detail.[53]

I cannot forbear observing however, that as it is not usual with me to treat any Gentleman with incivility, or even with indifference (especially under my own roof) I am unable to recollect any part of my behaviour which could give rise to such mis-conceptions of my motives.

As to the deceptions which may have been occasioned by the quotation in your letter, I shall only remark that I had no agency in the fabrication of it, or of anything similar thereto; that it is to be regretted, that we should have Land-jobbers and other Speculators among us, who, to promote their interested views will publish such accounts, and that foreigners should be imposed upon by them. I am &c.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 16, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your obliging favour of the 11th. instant, enclosing copies of the Instructions to, and Dispatches from the Envoys of the United States at Paris, was received with thankfulness, by the last Post.

One would think that the measure of infamy was filled, and the profligacy of, and corruption in the system pursued by the

[53] Fevot signed himself as "Lawyer at the Sovereign Council of Berne." His grievance was that he had come to America as a political refugee, because of a book titled "Answer to all the questions that might be asked relating to the United States of America," which assured travelers that "The most generous hospitality is shewn to Strangers," and had encountered very different treatment. He complained, too, of Washington's coolness toward him at Mount Vernon. Fevot's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

French Directory, required no further disclosure of the principles by which it is actuated than what is contained in the above Dispatches, to open the eyes of the blindest; and yet, I am persuaded, that those communications will produce no change in the *leaders* of the opposition; unless there should appear, a manifest desertion of their followers. There is a sufficient evidence already, in the *Aurora,* of the turn they intend to give the business, and of the ground they mean to occupy; but I do not believe they will be able to maintain *that,* or any *other* much longer. With very great esteem etc.

## *To OLIVER EVANS

Mount Vernon, April 22, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 17th, in answr to my letter of the 8th. instant, has been received; and I thank you for the ready, and early attention you gave to my request respecting a Miller.

You will do me a kindness to inform me of the result of your application to the person who served you in that capacity, whether he would agree to come, or not; that I may be relieved from suspence: and if his objection to coming is on account of the wages, and you should not hear of a suitable character who would engage on the terms mentioned in my last, let me know the lowest wages your former Miller would agree to take, provided he can be here by the middle, or even the latter end of August, and he shall know immediately (through you) whether we can agree or not, With esteem, etc.

## *To GEORGE DENEALE

Mount Vernon, April 22, 1798.

Sir: In answer to the enquiry contained in your letter of the 18th instant, respecting the issue of the suit which had been

brought against Thomson Mason, I am sorry to inform you that I can say nothing which would be explicit, or satisfactory.

It is near 20 years since I had any Agency in the concerns of the deceased Mrs. Savage. My Public occupations, and long absences from this State, threw the whole of that business on the Revd. Mr. Fairfax; from whom *alone* you will be able to get the information Mr. Dixon has asked. And very unsatisfactory I fear it will prove, as Doctr Savage while living, and his followers since, have had recourse to all the chicane and subterfuge which could be practiced, to wrong the above Lady and defraud her creditors; of whom I am one, for money *lent her*. I am etc.

P. S. It is possible Colo. Simms can give you some information respecting this business as I believe he was employed as an Attorney to prosecute in behalf of the trustees.

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, April 22, 1798.

My dear Bushrod: Enclosed are Deeds from me to General Lee, and from him to me. They were copied from his original Deed to me, without my previous examination of it, supposing (I understood it was drawn by Mr. Charles Lee) that it was correct in all its parts. When we were about to execute the New ones I found that his title to the old one was not recited; whether this is essential to the conveyance I know not, as the Lands are accurately described and he has, as he says, Doctr. Skinners conveyance to him wch. he will send me. The Patents from the Commonwealth to Skinner I have. If the Deeds enclosed are valid please to have them recorded, if not return them with your observations. I hope they are good wishing to have no more trouble with them. Yours Affectionately.

## *To ALEXANDER SMITH

Mount Vernon, April 25, 1798.

Sir: On the 3d. instant I wrote to you by way of Baltimore, and sent a duplicate thereof through the hands of Governor Henry at Annapolis. One or the other I hope has been received, altho' no acknowledgment of either (which is desirable, that I may know what to depend upon) has been given.

The purpose of this letter is to request, if it should get to your hands in time, that the Sleepers mentioned in the Bill of scantling I sent you, may be 9 Inches by 3, instead of 10 by 4; that the joists may be 8 by 3, instead of 9 by 3; and that the Studs may be 4 by 3 Inches, instead of being 6 by 4; and that to these may be added 10 posts, 11 feet long and 8 by 4 Inches is size. I am etc.

## *To EDWARD GRAHAM

Mount Vernon, April 25, 1798.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 9th. Ulto, but am not enabled to answer it satisfactorily. The burthen of obtaining the Grants for 200,000 acres of land under Governor Dinwiddie's Proclamation of 1754, and indeed the greater part of the expence attending this business, from the first move that was made therein until the issuing of the Patents, were thrown upon me, nor has the latter been re-embursed to this day.

It was with great difficulty after Peace was established in the year 1763, that I could obtain a recognition of the above proclamation; and then, instead of assigning a district, and permitting every Claimant to locate his own quantum therein, we were compelled to take the *whole* quantity in twenty Surveys; or rather not allowed to exceed that number. This it was that occasioned so many names to be jumbled together in the same

Patent and has caused the difficulties which have since occurred to the Patentees, to obtain their respective quantities. The same happened to myself; but rather than be at the trouble and expence of dividing with others, I bought, and exchanged, until I got entire tracts to myself.

After the Patents were granted and the Land thereby secured, I concerned myself no further with any part thereof except my own, than to give the notice you have alluded to; and am altogether ignorant of the measures the Patantees have taken to ascertain their proportions; consequently can afford you no satisfactory information on the subject of your enquiry. I am etc.

## *To WILLIAM BOOKER

Mount Vernon, April 25, 1798.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 20th instant, I inform you, that I shall be very glad to see you at Mount Vernon when you come into this part of the Country, and that the sooner it happens after harvest the more agreeable it will be to me. It is not the expence of any alteration in my Wheat Machine I regard, if the object proposed by it, can be accomplished. And I shall depend upon you for a raw hide band of the *best kind*. With esteem etc.

## *To THOMAS PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, May 6, 1798.

Dear Sir: Permit me to give you the trouble of the enclosed letter to Mr. Horry, in acknowledgment of one I received from him at Baltimore. I do this on the uncertainty of its finding him in Philadelphia, and because, in his letter to me, he did not say whether he should return to Charleston by Land or Water.

I am sorry to find by the Gazettes that you have had but indifferent health since your arrival at Philadelphia. When you return, but when will that be? I hope you will not forget that this place is very little out of your direct route, and that halting days are essential in long marches.

Mrs. Washington &ca. unite with me in best respects to Mrs. Pinckney and yourself, and I am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, May 6, 1798.

Dear Sir: Amongst the variety of matters which have come before Congress for the purpose of preparation, in the dernier resort; in short as a salutary measure at all times, and under all circumstances; Arsenals and Cannon Founderies, have occupied its attention.

This leads me to ask what steps have been taken relative to the site for one at the Mouth of the Shanondoah? I will pledge myself that there is not a spot in the United States wch. combines more, or greater requisites for these, than that does; considered either as a place of immense strength against, and inaccessible by an enemy; although open to *inland* navigation in all directions, as well crosswise as to the Shipping Port at the Federal City, and water transportation to the Western Country; for its centrality among Furnices and Forges. for its inexhaustible supply of Water, having the *whole* River of Shanondoah as a resourse, and for the populous and plentiful country in which it lyes.

I do not suppose that a place of this importance, and which has already cost the United States several thousand dollars (to be possessed of the ground) has passed unnoticed; but not having heard it mentioned in the progress of the discussions, or that any thing has been done on the premises since the purchase

of it under the former Act, has induced this enquiry; which you will answer, or not, as it suits your convenience, not doubting but that you have matters of more importance to attend to than the solution of my question.

The Demo's seem to be lifting up their heads again, according to Mr. Bache. They were a little crest fallen; or one might say, thunder stricken, on the publication of the Dispatches from our Envoys; but the contents of them are now resolved into harmless chit-chat and trifles, less than was, or ought to have been expected from the misconduct of the Administration; that it is better to submit to such chastisement than to hazard greater evils by futile resentment. So much for a little consultation among them. I am etc.

## To WILLIAM PEARCE

Mount Vernon, May 6, 1798.

Mr. Pearce: A few days ago the enclosed a/c was sent in, and others of a similar nature have also been presented. To guard against these *after claps* was the reason why I urged you with so much earnestness to leave no accounts unpaid, of your own contracting.

Why The balance, if just, was left unpaid, when you had money to go to, at pleasure, or why it was referred to Mr. Lear to pay, I am unable to say. Some accounts which have been presented, I have caused to be proved; but in the case of Messrs Fosters & May, they have been informed that the account should be transmitted to you for explanation. I request therefore you would let me know whether the Balance claimed by them is really due. In short, be kind enough to give me such information concerning it as you are possessed of, that the matter may be settled with those Gentlemen; and with it, return their Account.

In cradling my Wheat the coming Harvest I wish to catch it in the hand, in the manner practised on the Eastern Shore and other places; but as none of my People have been in the habit of cutting in this way, they might need an Instructor. Would it be in your power to engage a person who understands this business *perfectly,* and fixing the Cradles, to be here by the 25th June; to be paid by the day while here, and for coming and returning and his reasonable travelling expences?

At any rate I pray you to let me know, and as soon as you conveniently can, if I might depend upon it. Inform me at the same time, if you please, whether the Cradles and Scythes differ in any respect from those which you know I use and if they do, to inform me in what the difference consists, that I may be preparing against Harvest. The Scythe, I presume must be the same, but the fixing of it to the sneed may differ; and the Cradle may vary from the usual Kind, by having more, or less fingers, more or less coming, &ca. All of which can readily be readily described in a letter, by a person well acquainted with the two sorts, so as to enable me with the assistance of Mr. Stuart, who you know is, from his own account, acquainted with all things to go on in this mode even if you shd not be able to procure me a very skilful hand (for none other I would have sent). I remain Your friend.[54]

## *To CHARLES L. PINCKNEY HORRY

Mount Vernon, May 6, 1798.

Sir: A Post or two ago favoured me with a note from you dated the 23d. Ulto, accompanying your answr. to Paine's letter, addressed to me.

[54] From the printed text in M. D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon.* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

For the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express for me in both, I feel grateful; and pray you to accept this acknowledgment of the sense I entertain of them.

Until the Gazettes announced your arrival in Philadelphia I was unacquainted with your route from Baltimore. Should your return to Charleston be by land, I shall be happy in seeing you at this place; about nine miles from Alexandria and but little out of the Post Road. I am etc.

## *To THOMAS LAW

Mount Vernon, May 7, 1798.

Dear Sir: After you left this on friday last, Mr. Lewis put into my hands your letter without a date.

It is unnecessary I hope, to assure you that your generous offers of a lot near the Seat of Congress, and of five thousand dollars on loan to commence a building in the City, were received with grateful sensibility, and thanks; at the sametime, let me entreat you not to consider as a slight, my declining to accept the advantages of either.

Already, I have more lots in the City than I shall be able to improve; and I have no disposition to speculate in them. To prevent jealousy, while the concerns of the Government were under my guidance, and suspicion that I had a greater predeliction to one part of the City than to another, I purchased four lots at each end of it; valuable in my estimation for different purposes; those on the Eastern branch on account of Commerce, which I always did, and still do think, will center there; the other as a site for a private Gentleman to live at.

It has always been my intention to build on the latter, whensoever the means were within my reach; hitherto they have not; and as it has been a maxim with me from early life, never to undertake anything without perceiving a door to the accom-

plishment, in a reasonable time and with my own resources, the measure has been delayed, rather unexpectedly.

My Estate (though it might sell, on credit, for a tolerable sum) has been, and probably will continue to be, far from a productive one: and it has so happened, that the proceeds of Landed and other Sales from it, hitherto, have been appropriated in a great measure to the expences my late situation obliged me, in a manner, to encounter; and I might add, in another way also which was neither expected or desired, but became necessary from causes which it would be useless to mention.

The buildings which I have erected and yet find occasion to erect on my Mount Vernon Estate (and which may, by some, be considered as no indication of the want of money) have required very little advance of that article, being done almost wholly within myself: far otherwise would be the case with undertakings of a similar kind in the City, where workmen's wages and every material (although they may have fallen from what they have been) would come very high.

We shall always have pleasure in visiting Mrs. Law and you, in New Jersey Avenue; and if Mrs. Washington keeps well, we will, after Nelly Custis returns give you a Sample of it. We unite in Affectionate regards for you both, and for the Child, and I am etc.[65]

## *To FOSTER & MAY

Mount Vernon, May 7, 1798.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 30th Ulto. with the A/c annexed, have been received, and I shall confess, with surprise.

It is a very unusual thing for me to be presented with old accounts, and in the present instance it is extraordinary, because Mr. Pearce had the command of my money which he himself

[65] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

had deposited in the Bank of Alexandria, and had been directed over and over again, months before he left my Employ, and in the most pointed terms, to pay every farthing which was due from my Estate of his contracting as I should be unwilling to meet demands of this sort after he was gone.

What, under these circumstances, cd. have induced him to leave your A/c unpaid, and still more, to refer you to Mr. Lear for payment, who had no authority from me to pay or receive money requires explanation from Mr. Pearce. To him therefore I have written, and transmitted your A/c, when the answer is recd you shall again hear from Gentlemen Your etc.

PS. Had you presented this A/c sooner, sooner might the enquiry have been made and the matter have been settled.

## *To WILLIAM HERBERT

Mount Vernon, May 8, 1798.

Dear Sir: The Notes undermentioned you will please to deposit in the Bank of Alexandria; and when the contents of them are received, to carry the same to the credit of Dear Sir Your etc.

*1798*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jany. | 17th. | Jas. Patton and Jas. Dykes | 120 days | $1600 |
| Mar. | 1. | Jesse Simms | 90 Do | 514.70 |
| | 5. | William Wilson | 60 Do | 1500.* |

(*) Mr. Wilson has a demand upon me for about 400 Bushels of Salt, for the amt. of which he shall receive a Check on the Bank so soon as the precise sum is ascertained by Go: W.

## To GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

Mount Vernon, May 10, 1798.

Dear Washington: Your letter by Colonel Fitzgerald has been received, and I shall confine my reply at present, to the

query in the postscript, viz. "to whom I am to apply for money in case of need."

This has the appearance of a very early application, when it is considered that you were provided very plentifully, it was conceived, with necessaries of all sorts when you left this (two months ago only); had £4. 6. given to you by me, and £3. 0. 0. by Doctor Stuart, as charged in his account against me (equal to between 9 and 10 lbs. Maryland currency); had a trunk purchased for you, a quarters board paid in advance, &c. Except for your washing, and books when necessary, I am at a loss to discover what has given rise to so early a question. Surely you have not conceived that indulgence in dress or other extravagances are matters that were ever contemplated by me as objects of expense; and I hope they are not so by you. As then the distance between this and Annapolis is short, and the communication (by post) easy, regular and safe, transmit the accounts of such expenses as are necessary, to me, in your letters, and a mode shall be devised for prompt and punctual payment of them. And let me exhort you, in solemn terms, to keep steadily in mind the purposes and the end for which you were sent to the seminary you are now placed at, and not disappoint the hopes which have been entertained from your going thither, by doing which you will ensure the friendship, &c. of.[56]

## *To WILLIAM STRICKLAND

Mount Vernon, May 15, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 26th. of Novr. last, introductory of Mr. Miles Smith; I have had the pleasure to receive; but not that of seeing the Gentleman himself. I have, however, expressed in a letter to him, the gratification this would afford

[56] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington.*

me, if business or inclination should induce him to visit the State of Virginia.

The chief object of giving you the trouble of receiving this Address, at this time, is to introduce to your civilities my good friend and neighbour, the Revd. Bryan Fairfax; who is, though he has not taken the title, Baron of Cameron since the death of the late Lord, Robert Fairfax.

Bad health, and the recommendation of Sea Air, have induced this Gentleman to make a Voyage to England, whether he will travel in it, or not, depends, I presume, upon the state of the former. but if he should visit Yorkshire, I can, from a long and intimate acquaintance with him, say that he will be found worthy of your attentions. With very great esteem, etc.

## *To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Mount Vernon, May 15, 1798.

Sir: The motive which I assigned in my letter of the 6th. of Novr. (a copy of which, with others, is herewith enclosed) for transmitting you a duplicate of a long, private letter of the 11th. Decemr. 1796, having encreased for my not having yet received an acknowledgment of it; and having undoubted information that the Vessel by which the duplicate was sent has been taken by a Frh. Privateer, the masters of whom pay little respect to private letters; or any thing else indeed which they lay their hands on; has induced me (for the reasons assigned in the aforesaid letter of the 6th. of November) to forward a triplicate thereof. And as few of our Vessels escape their search, I send copies, as mentioned above, of all the letters I have had the honor of writing to you since that epoch, by my neighbour and friend, the Reverend Bryan Fairfax, who, though he has not taken the title, is the legitimate Baron of Cameron, and

father of Ferdinando Fairfax, to whom, as you are informed in my letter of the 11th. of December, the Estate of Belvoir now belongs by devise from his Uncle, the Honble. George William Fairfax deceased.

A long continuance of bad health and a desire to try the effect of Sea Air are the principal, perhaps only, motives which have induced my neighbour to undertake a Voyage to England. He possesses as good a heart and as pure intentions as any man living, as such, I have no scruple in recommending him to your acquaintance and civilities. With very great esteem etc.

## *To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Mount Vernon, May 15, 1798.

Sir: Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance and civilities, my good friend and neighbour the Reverand Bryan Fairfax who is, though he has not taken upon himself the title, the Baron of Cameron.

Ill health, and advice that Sea Air might be a mean of restoring his health, have induced him to take a Voyage to England. The integrity of his heart and benevolence of his mind, need only to be known to procure him esteem, and as I can vouch for these I shall introduce him to you as a Gentleman worthy of your attention. I have the honor etc.[57]

## *To THOMAS C. MARTIN

Mount Vernon, May 15, 1798.

Sir: In the course of last Autumn, I wrote to you relatively to a thrashing Machine, of which you were the Inventor; and you were obliging enough to give me some account of it;

[57] Introductory letters, similar in substance, were also written, May 15, to Rufus King and the Earl of Buchan. Press copies of these are in the *Washington Papers*.

adding, that you had not fully satisfied yourself how far Manual labour or the labour of horses, could be applied to advantage. Since which, indistinct, and contradictory accounts have been received of the result of your experiments.

Under this uncertainty, and an earnest wish that you might succeed to the full extent of your expectation and hope, and that you may obtain in the Patent right, ample compensation for your ingenuity, I give you the trouble of receiving this second letter from me; requiring to be informed *from yourself* whether the Machine can be worked advantagiously by Men, or horses (for I have no water that could be applied to it), and in both, or either mode, what quantity of Wheat might, on a medium, be expected from the work of a day? And, if you are, yourself, perfectly satisfied of the simplicity, and utility of the machine, as an impliment on a farm, that you would inform me (if you have obtained Patents, or digested any mode of dissiminating Instructions) in what manner I could obtain them; and of the previous steps to be taken (by a bill of scantling and the provision of other materials) to facilitate the work; as I should like to have one erected by Harvest; and am willing (if on trial the plan has succeeded) to conform, in all respects to your terms, or to be governed by your directions or advice; or to be at the expence of paying a skilful workman whom you might send hither, for putting such materials together as you might previously order to be provided. To hear from you soon would much oblige Sir Your etc.

## *To SARAH CARY FAIRFAX[58]

Mount Vernon, May 16, 1798.

My dear Madam: Five and twenty years, nearly, have passed away since I have considered myself as the permanent resident

[58] Widow of George William Fairfax.

at this place; or have been in a situation to endulge myself in a familiar intercourse with my friends, by letter or otherwise.

During this period, so many important events have occurred, and such changes in men and things have taken place, as the compass of a letter would give you but an inadequate idea of. None of which events, however, nor all of them together, have been able to eradicate from my mind, the recollection of those happy moments, the happiest in my life, which I have enjoyed in your company.[59]

Worn out in a manner by the toils of my past labour, I am again seated under my Vine and Fig tree, and wish I could add that, there are none to make us affraid; but those whom we have been accustomed to call our good friends and Allies, are endeavouring, if not to make us affraid, yet to despoil us of our property; and are provoking us to Acts of self-defence, which may lead to War. What will be the result of such measures, time, that faithful expositor of all things, must disclose. My wish is, to spend the remainder of my days (which cannot be many) in rural amusements; free from those cares [from] which public responsibility is never exempt.

Before the War, and even while it existed, altho' I was eight years from home at one stretch, (except the *en passant visits* made to it on my March to and from the Siege of Yorktown) I made considerable additions to my dwelling house, and alterations in my Offices, and Gardens; but the dilapidation occasioned by time, and those neglects which are co-extensive with the absence of Proprietors, have occupied as much of my time, within the last twelve months in repairing them, as at any former period in the same space. and it is matter of sore regret, when I cast my eyes towards Belvoir, which I often do, to reflect that the former Inhabitants of it, with whom we lived in

[59] *Cf.* Washington's letter to George William Fairfax, Feb. 27, 1785 (vol. 28), *ante*.

such harmony and friendship, no longer reside there; and that the ruins can only be viewed as the memento of former pleasures; and permit me to add, that I have wondered often, (your nearest relations being in this Country), that you should not prefer spending the evening of your life among them rather than close the sublunary Scene in a foreign Country, numerous as your acquaintances may be, and sincere, as the friendships you may have formed.

A Century hence, if this Country keeps united (and it is surely its policy and Interest to do so) will produce a City, though not as large as London, yet of a magnitude inferior to few others in Europe, on the Banks of the Potomack; where one is now establishing for the permanent Seat of the Government of the United States (between Alexandria and Georgetown, on the Maryland side of the River). A situation not excelled for commanding prospect, good water, salubrious air, and safe harbour by any in the world; and where elegant buildings are erecting and in forwardness, for the reception of Congress in the year 1800.

Alexandria, within the last seven years, (since the establishment of the General Government) has increased in buildings, in population, in the improvement of its Streets by well executed pavements, and in the extension of its Wharves, in a manner, of which you can have very little idea. This shew of prosperity, you will readily [conceive, is owing to its commerce,] the extension of *that trade* is occasioned in [a great degree] by opening of the Inland navigation of the Potomack River; now cleared to Fort Cumberland, upwards of 200 miles, and by a similar attempt to accomplish the like [up the Shenandoah,] 150 miles more. In a word, if this Country can steer clear of European politics, stand firm on its [bottom], and be

wise and temperate in its government, [it bids fair to be one of the greatest and happiest nations in the world.]

Knowing that Mrs. Washington is about to give you an account of the changes wch have happened in the neighbourhood, and in our own family [I shall not trouble] you with a repetition of them; . . .[60] receive accurate information . . . from *particular* friends, from . . . and having only one . . . miles . . . I have not been as far as Occoquan these seven years; . . . from hoping it. Be that as it may, . . . and under all circumstances, I shall . . . be . . .[61]

## *To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, May 18, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th, and its contents, came Safe, as you will perceive by the enclosed receipt for the money.

As neither your letter of the 16th. nor Patsey's[62] of the 15th, has taken any notice of one written to her by Mrs. Washington of the 14th. and committed to the care of Mr. White (Commissioner) we are left in doubt as to the receipt of it. I shall just mention, therefore that the purport of it was, to inform you, that tomorrow (if not prevented by any thing at present unforeseen) we proposed to visit Hope Park, stay there on Sunday, and dine with you on Monday. This we yet mean to do. Our best wishes are offered for you, Patcy and the Children, and I am etc.

PS. I decline saying any thing concerning the Bricklayer until I come to the City.

[60] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [ . . . ] are illegible.

[61] The draft of this letter from Martha Washington is in the writing of Washington. It is dated May 17, 1798, and is in the *Washington Papers*. It is printed in Ford's edition of *Washington's Writings*.

[62] Mrs. Martha Peter.

## To REVEREND BRYAN, LORD FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, May 18, 1798.

Dear Sir: Having occasion to write another letter to Sir John Sinclair, I take the liberty of giving you the trouble of it, and Mrs. Washington begs the favour of you to put her letter to her old neighbor and friend, Mrs. Fairfax, into a channel for safe delivery, if you should not see her yourself.

Knowing, from experience, that Masters of Vessels never sail at the time they first appoint, Mrs. Washington and I propose to call upon you on our return from the City, in full confidence of seeing you then. If, however, contrary to expectation, the Captain of the Vessel you embark on should be more punctual than usual, and we should be disappointed in this, we beg you to receive our ardent wishes for a safe and pleasant passage to England, the perfect restoration when you return. To these wishes let me add assurances of the affectionate regard etc.[63]

## *To JAMES ANDERSON

Federal City, May 22, 1798.

Mr. Anderson: Your letter of the 19th inst. has been received, but not with the surprise it would otherwise have occasioned, had I not been prepared in some measure for the notice it gave by the intimation contained in a former letter (not now by me, and the date forgotten) of your intention to withdraw from my employment at the end of the year.

I shall repeat now, what I said upon that occasion, viz. that I had no intention then, nor have I any desire now, to part with you as a manager; but having made this declaration I

[63] From the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

shall add (what I believe I then did) that I have no wish to retain any person in my Service who is discontented with my conduct; or who has any prospects more congenial with their inclinations or their Interest, in the service of another; and this I must presume to be the case with you, for it can hardly be supposed that the reasons you have assigned for leaving mine, are all that have urged you to the measure. Strange, and singular indeed would it be, if the Proprietor of an Estate (than whom no one can be so good a judge of the resources as himself) should have nothing to say in, or controul over, his own expenditures; Should not be at liberty to square his œconomy thereto; Nor should, without hurting the feelings of a Manager, point to such alterations, (admitting they were not the best) but such as he might incline to adopt or at least propose; especially too when it has been requested by that Manager over and over again to do so. It is a matter of regret, and if these things should operate equally on others, it might be a means of preventing my ever having another Manager; for I have no hesitation in declarg that I shall never relinquish the right of judging, in my own concerns (though I may be pleased always to hear opinions) to any Man living while I have health and strength to look into my own business; especially as my sole inducement to give standing wages was to prevent those complaints which might arise from a difference of opinion and interference if a share of the crops was to constitute the reward for Services.

Having said this much upon general principles, I am a little curious, I must confess, to know in what instances your plans have been thwarted? that they have been altered by yourself, cannot be denied; I am equally desirous of knowing what improvements have been obstructed, or defeated, by my withholding the means of carrying them into effect? It will not be

denied that you have planned your own Crops (except perhaps those at Dogue Run), and that you have directed the Carpenters, Ditchers, Millers and Coopers in their work. If I have interfered in either, it has been no further, that I can recollect, than by expressing an opinion that shifting them from one work to another, before anything was completed, is a waste of time, and a backwarding of labour. Have you ever been denied money when it was asked for? and have I not on a variety of occasions given it as my decided opinion that to improve my Farms by lessening the quantity of Tillage; by dressing the smaller quantity more highly; by hedging and keepg them clean by Ditching, and meadowing would be more agreeable to me than *immediate* profit? and that for want of a regular rotation system, (adapted to the nature of the soil, and to circumstances) my Land hitherto has been sorely pressed, and must ultimately be ruined if it is not adopted.

If all these things have happened, where have I been deficient? or in what have you just cause to complain? If I cannot remark upon my own business, passing every day under my eyes, without hurting your feelings, I must discontinue my rides, or become a cypher on my own Estate. you will, I am persuaded, do me the justice to say that I have never undertaken any new thing, or made any material change, or indeed any change at all in the old, without consulting with you thereupon; and you must further acknowledge, that I have never been tenacious of any matters I have suggested, when you have offered Reasons against the adoption of them. If your feelings have been hurt by my remarks on the bad clover Seed that was purchased, I cannot help that; my views and plan have been much more hurt by it; for it is a fact known to yourself, that field No. 2, at D. R. would not have been sown with Oats but for the sake of the Clover (with a view to carrying on my rota-

tion system, at that farm) and that I required only three or four days to have ascertained by actual experiment whether it was good or not. In a case where facts could be resorted to, there was no occn. to exercise judgmt.

But as it is not my wish to hurt the feelings of any one, where it can be avoided, or to do injustice in any respect whatsover; the foregoing is to be considered in no other light than as a reply to your letter, and as a development of the principles on which I have acted and shall continue to act; I shall proceed then to suggest *now* what I intended to mention to you some little time hence, and which was the ground on wch. I proposed the plan of building a house at the Mill.

Two things have appeared very clear to me for sometime past; one, that your attention is too much divided, and called to so many different objects, that notwithstanding your zeal, and Industry, with wch I always have been, and still am perfectly satisfied, some of them must suffer: the other, that my Mill, and Distillery, under the uncertainty of Cropping of late years, would, with good management and close attention to them, be found my best and most certain support.

Under this conviction. Under a belief that to carry on the Millering and Distillery business to the extent of which they are susceptible, would, of themselves, be sufficient to occupy the time and attention of any one person; and under a persuation that if you were relieved wholly, or in part from all the other duties and perplexities of your present employments (still retaining the Sallary and emoluments you now have) that you would render these two branches more productive than the whole now is to me. These considerations then, had determined me to propose to you, to confine your attention to these objects, and to the Fishery; if not altogether, at least in a great degree; to enable you to do which with the greatest convenience, was

one of my motives for proposing to build a convenient house at the Mill. In this case you would be relieved from the responsibility of other matters, and in a great measure from the trouble which is now attached to them; altho' I should still expect and stipulate to receive, all the aid that could be derived from your knowledge and advice in the management of my Farms, especially at the three nearest to the Mill, and that you would ride round them with me whenever required so to do, and do business for me in Alexandria when called upon for that purpose. I am induced, in some degree, to make this proposition from another consideration; namely: a belief that one of the Overseers which I now have, altho' he may obey orders will never carry on business to advantage if controuled by any one except the owner of the Farm; if by him.

If you are inclined to accede to this proposition I will give the three concerns above mentioned up, entirely to your management the ensuing year under regulatns. to be agd. upon and will furnish you with means to carry on the business to its utmost extent, and shall as mentioned before only require your advice, and assistance occasionally, in conducting the other parts of my concerns. By a plan of this sort, you will be relieved, from the most troublesome part of your present occupations; from all the responsibility annexed to them; and from those remarks which seem to be the source of your present uneasiness and complaints.

So soon as you shall have given this proposition due consideration I shall expect to be informed of the result; as decisive and timely measures must be taken on my part to arrange matters for the New order if you are determined to quit the Employ.[64]

I wish you well and am your friend &c.

[64] At some date after May 22 Washington penciled on the last page of this draft: "No answer has he given to this letter yet."

## *To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, May 27, 1798.

My dear Sir: Yesterday, brought me your Letter of the 19th. instant.[65] You may be assured, that my Mind is deeply impressed with the present situation of our public affairs, and not a little agitated by the outrageous conduct of France towards the United States; and at the enemical conduct of its partisans among ourselves, who aid and abet their measures: You may believe further, from assurances equally sincere, that if there was anything in my power, which could be done with consistency to avert, or lessen the danger of the Crisis, it should be rendered with hand and heart.

The expedient however, which has been suggested by you, would not in my opinion, answer the end which is proposed. The object of such a tour could not be vailed by the ostensible cover to be given to it; because it would not apply to the state of my health, which never was better: and as the measure would be susceptible of two interpretations, the enemies to it, always more active and industrious than friends, would endeavour, as much as in them lay, to turn it to their own advantage, by malicious insinuations; unless they should discover that the current against themselves was setting too strong, and of too serious a nature for them to stem; in which case the journey would be unnecessary, and in either case, the reception might not be such as you have supposed.

[65] Hamilton's letter was removed from the *Washington Papers* by John C. Hamilton and placed in the *Hamilton Papers*, which are now in the Library of Congress. Parts of it state: "In the event of an open rupture with France, the public voice will again call you to command the armies of your Country." He further suggested "a circuit through Virginia and North Carolina under some pretence of health &c. This would call forth addresses public dinners &c. which would give you an opportunity of expressing sentiments in Answering Toasts &c. which would throw the weight of your character into the scale of Government and revive an enthusiasm for your person that may be turned into the right channel."

But, my dear Sir, dark as matters appear at present, and expedient as it is to be prepared at *all* points, for the worst that can happen; (and no one is more disposed to this measure than I am), I cannot make up my mind, *yet,* for the expectation of *open War;* or, in other words, for a formidable Invasion, by France. I cannot believe, although I think them capable of *any thing bad,* that they will attempt to do more than they have done; that when they perceive the spirit, and policy of this country rising into resistance; and that they have falsely calculated upon support from *a large* part of the *People* thereof, to promote their views and influence in it, that they will desist, *even from those practices;* Unless unexpected events in Europe, and their possession of Louisiana and the Floridas, should induce them to continue the measure. And I believe further, that although the *leaders* of their party, in this country, will not change their sentiments, that they will be obliged nevertheless to change their plan, or the mode of carrying it on; from the effervescence which is appearing in all quarters, and the desertion of their followers, which must frown them into silence. at least for a while.

If I did not view things in this light, my mind would be infinitely more disquieted than it is; for if a crisis should arrive when a sense of duty, or a call from my Country, should become so imperious as to leave me no choice, I should prepare for the relinquishment, and go with as much reluctance from my present peaceful abode, as I should do to the tombs of my Ancestors.

To say at this time, determinately, what I should do under such circumstances, might be improper, having once before departed from a similar resolution; but I may declare *to you,* that as there is no conviction in my breast that I could serve my country with more efficiency in the command of the Armies, it might Levy, than many others, an expression of its wish that I

should do so, must somehow or other be unequivocally known, to satisfy my mind that, notwithstanding the respect in which I may be held on account of former services, that a preference might not be given to a man more in his prime. And it may well be supposed too, that I should like, previously, to know who would be my coadjutors, and whether you would be disposed to take an active part, if Arms are to be resorted to.[66]

Before this letter can get to your hands, you will have seen the Resolutions and proposed address from Citizens of Charleston, in South Carolina. Their proceedings will, I am persuaded, give the ton to other parts of *that* State. Two or three very good Addresses have already appeared from No. Carolina; one with the Signature of a late Governor thereof, Spaight. All the upper most populous and hardy yeomanry of this State, have come, and are coming forward, with strong Addresses to the Executive, and assurances of Support. The Address from Norfolk (I do not mean the impertinent one from Magnien's Grenadier Company) is a good one. The middle counties of this State, with two or three exceptions, have hitherto been silent; they want leaders; but I shall be much mistaken if a large majority of them do not forsake, if they have heretofore been with, those who have pretended to speak their Sentiments. As to the Resolutions which were entered into at Fredericksburgh, it is only necessary to point to the Manager of them; and add, that the meeting was partial.

From Georgia no development of the public sentiment has made its appearance; but I have learnt from a very intelligent Gentleman just returned from thence, where he has been

[66] Hamilton replied (June 2): "I have no scruple about opening myself to you on this point. If I am invited *to a station in which the service I may render may be proportioned to the sacrifice I am to make;* I shall be willing to go into the army. If you command, the place in which I should hope to be most useful is that of Inspector General with a command in the line." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

sometime for the benefit of his health; travelling, going and returning, slowly, and making considerable halts, that the people of that State, as also those of South and North Carolina, seem to be actuated by one spirit, *and that,* a very friendly one to the General Government. I have likewise heard, that the present Governor of the first (Georgia) professes to be strongly attached to it. These disclosures, with what may yet be expected, will, I conceive, give a different impression of the sentiments of our people to the Directory of France, than what they have been taught to believe; while it must serve to abash the partizans of it for their wicked, and presumptive information.

Your free communication on these political topics, is so far from needing an apology, that I shall be much gratified, and thankful to you, for the continuation of them; and I would wish you to believe, that with great truth and sincerity, I am always Your Affectionate friend, &c.

## *To JOSEPH HOPKINSON

Mount Vernon, May 27, 1798.

Sir: An absence for more than eight days from home (on a visit to our friends in the Federal City) is offered as an apology for my not giving your polite, and obliging favour of the 9th. instant, an earlier acknowledgment.

I pray you now, my good Sir, to accept my best thanks for the Pamphlet and Song,[67] which accompanied it; and still more, for the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express, in my behalf. To expect that all men should think alike upon political, more than on Religious, or other subjects, would be to look for a change in the order of nature; but at so dangerous a crisis as the present, when every thing dear to Independence

[67] "Hail Columbia."

is at stake, the well disposed part of them might, one would think, act more alike; Opposition therefore to the major will, and to that self respect which is due to the National character, cannot but seem strange!

But I will unite with you in a fervent wish, and hope, that greater unanimity than heretofore, will prevail; for enough, I think we have seen, to remove the mist entirely; and that, the young men of the present day will not suffer the liberty for which their fore fathers fought, bled, and died, and obtained, [to] be lost by them; either by supineness, or divisions among themselves, disgraceful to the Country. I am, &c.

## *To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Mount Vernon, May 28,[68] 1798.

Dear Sir: The present dangerous crisis of public affairs, makes me anxious to know the sentiments of our citizens in different parts of this Commonwealth;[69] and no one hag. a better opportunity to form an opinion of the central part thereof, than yourself. this will be my apology for giving you the trouble of a letter at this time.

Several Counties above the Blue ridge have come forward with warm addresses, and strong professions of support. From Norfolk two meetings, one *good* the other *bad,* have their proceedings detailed in the Gazettes. Meetings have taken place in a few of the middle Counties, with unpromising results; and an invitation was given for one, in Davis's Paper of the 15th to be held in Richmond, but I have heard nothing more concerning it. Let not any enquiries or gratifications of mine, interfere with your more important concerns; the devotion of a moment or two, of leisure, will suffice for Dear Sir &c.

[68] Sparks and Ford date this letter May 30.
[69] Virginia.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, May 28, 1798.

Dear Sir: Enclosed you will receive my Power of Attorney to sell the sum of three thousand four hundred and ninety four dollars and thirty one cents, Six pr. Cent stock of the United States, which stands in my name on the Books in Philadelphia, and also the certificates of sd Stock.

This stock is loaned by me for the use of the Potomack Company, and in the application thereof you will be pleased to follow the advice of Mr. William Hartshorne, of Alexandria, the Treasurer of that Company.

There will yet remain a small sum to be received quarterly on the 3 pr Ct. Stock; but that I may not at any time draw for more than you have funds to answer, I pray you to inform me, (after the Coach and Table ornaments are sold) how the A/c between us stands, that I may make my remittances accord with the draughts. With esteem etc.

## *To JOSEPH SANDS

Mount Vernon, May 29, 1798.

Sir: The last Northern Mail brot. me your favour of the 24th Instt.[70]

As the tin box therein mentioned, has not the addition of President annexed to the direction, there can be no doubt of its being addressed to me, in my private character, although I have received no other advice relative thereto than what you have been so obliging as to give.

From the size of it, as described by you, it must be too cumbersome for the Post Office, which, otherwise, would be the read-

[70] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

iest, most expeditious, and safest mode of getting it to me: next to this, if any Gentleman, coming through the *whole route* from New York to Alexandria, in the stage, would take charge of it, is to be preferred. If neither of these can obtain, water transportation, in any Vessel between the above mentioned places, seems to be the only, and *least* desirable mode left, as I presume, from the careful manner in which they are enclosed, that the contents are Papers; and having escaped so far, I would not risk them again, if to be avoided, to another *fiery,* as well as *watery* exposure. If however, they must come by water, (the same indeed by land) be so good as to direct them to the care of the Collector in Alexandria; and favour me with a line by Post, informing me of the measure. I am etc.[71]

## *To WILLIAM FITZHUGH[72]

Mount Vernon, May 30, 1798.

My dear Sir: Particular business called me to Alexandria yesterday under a promise of returning to dinner, and under an expectation (in which I was disappointed) of finding Mr. Law and family here on my arrival.

Just as I was about leaving town, and hardly time for the above purpose (or I would have called upon you) Mr. Lear informed me of the coversation you had had with him, relative to Mr. Andersons tender of his Services to you as a Manager.

The letter herewith enclosed from Mr. Anderson to me, and the rough copy of my answer to him, will let you know precisely on what footing the matter between us stands. To these, as well for your information, as in justice to Mr. Anderson, and by way of explanation of my own conduct towards him, it is

[71] From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by the United States Naval Academy.

[72] Of "Chatham," Va.

necessary I should add 1st. That I believe him to be a very industrious man; a very honest, zealous and well intentioned man; and for any thing I know to the contrary (though when he goes to Alexandria he never returns but at very late hours) he is a very sober man: I believe moreover, that he understands how to prepare ground for all kinds of Crops (such I mean as he has been accustomed to cultivate) well; knows how to put them in, and to manage them afterwards. I think also, that he knows how to prepare for, and manage grass. so much for his good qualities. I must now give the counter part, the mentioning of which, occasionally to him (and no other) has produced his discontents; these are 2dly. Want of system. Want of foresight in the arrangement of his business; shifting from thing to thing, without finishing any thing, *at once;* often at the loss of as much time (which he seems not to have estimated the value of) as would have accomplished the object which was left: Expence in providing for the Farms, and inattention to them afterwards; in a word, want of œconomy. To these may be added, that although he expresses a wish to be governed in *all things,* you can find fault with *nothing* without hurting his feelings; but these do not shew themselves in the least kind of indecency or impertinance; on the contrary there is no man more obliging.

This is a candid statement of facts, and as I think his errors are overbalanced, and the consequences of them may be avoided under one's own eyes, I had, as he has been informed, no intention of parting with him; especially as he has run me into a very considerable expence (contrary I may say to my intention, or wishes) in erecting a Distillery which I shall not know what well to do with.

Understanding that he has formed some business for town today (no doubt to come to some understanding with you) I have thought it expedient before the interview, to apprise you of these details.

With sincere regard etc.

PS. Did Mr. Anderson expect to fill the place of Mr. Dance immediately, or that you would keep it unoccupied until his term expired with me, the 1st of January next? I would thank you also, to let me know the date, or dates of his letters of application to you, for the management of your Estate at Ravensworth. His letter to me, and my answer you will be so good as to return.

## *MEMORANDUM[73]

Is the pay of the Officers by the enclosed Bill augmented?

Will the power given in the 16th Sect. extend to the appointment of General Officers?

Is it confined to Regimental Officers? or what is the object of it?

What construction is to be put upon the 14th Sect.? It may be too late to appoint Officers, and have the Regiments to Recruit when Occasion call for the Services of them.

It seems to allude *wholly* to Militia and yet Militia is not mentioned; consequently Corps like the levies might be raised. It is essential therefore that the time of Service should not commence until the Rendezvous and Muster. [N.Y.P.L.]

## *To JUDGE ALEXANDER ADDISON[74]

Mount Vernon, June 3, 1798.

Sir: I was favoured with your letter of the 17th. Ulto. by the last Post.

[73] This undated memorandum refers to the act, approved May 28, 1798, authorizing the President to raise a provisional army. It probably was one of the matters discussed by Washington and McHenry, when the latter was at Mount Vernon, July 11–14, 1798; but whether this memorandum was drawn up then, previously, or later, is difficult to fix.

[74] U. S. District Judge in Pennsylvania.

Not to have received the Instalment due to me on the Bond of the deceased Col. Ritchie (lodged in the Bank of Pennsylvania for collection) at the appointed period, is attended with considerable disappointment to me; and if it should not be paid (in whole) at the time mentioned in your Note the inconvenience will be sorely felt by me. To raise cash was the sole inducement to the Sale of my lands in Fayette and Washington Counties; and not to receive it, agreeably to contract, will defeat *my* object, and the expectation of *others*.

I pray you, Sir, to accept my thanks for the Pamphlet you had the goodness to send me, containing your remarks on Mr. Gallatin's Speech in the house of Representatives of the United States, on the foreign Intercourse Bill, and for the Gazette containing an Oration delivered in the Town of W——[75] on the day recommended by the President to be observed as a General Fast.

Both of the productions I have read with equal attention and satisfaction; and although it has been justly observed in one of them, that to offer conviction to a person convinced before hand would be labour lost, yet, much good may, and I am persuaded will result, from the investigation of Political heresies, when the propagation of them is intended, evidently, to mislead the multitude; who, it is to be hoped, and as I verily believe, only require correct information to enable them to decide justly upon all National matters which are brought fairly, and properly before them; who, not like the Demagogues that attempt to impose upon their understandings, and are affraid to open their eyes, lest something should accost them, which might flash conviction, and embarrass them more in the prosecution of their system of opposition to the Wheels of Government which they have adopted, and at all events, it would seem, are determined to adhere to. With esteem I am etc. [H.S.P.]

[75] Washington, Pa.

## *To REVEREND WILLIAM LYNN

Mount Vernon, June 4, 1798.

Revd. Sir: I received with thankfulness your favour of the 30th. Ulto., enclosing the discourse delivered by you on the day recommended by the President of the United States to be observed as a general Fast. I have read them both with pleasure; and feel grateful for the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express in my behalf; but more especially for those good wishes which you offer for my temporal and eternal happiness; which I reciprocate with great cordiality, being with esteem and respect, Revd. Sir Your etc. [H.L.]

## *To JUDITH SARGENT STEVENS MURRAY

Mount Vernon, June 4, 1798.

Madam: Strange as the relation of it may appear, it is not less true, that your letter of the 29th. of March did not get to my hands untill yesterday; at which time your other favour of the 28th. Ulto was also received; for they came by the same Mail.

The Books, which were recd. in very good order, and has been read with very great pleasure; came at the times, and in the manner you directed, and are entitled to my best thanks. This acknowledgment would have been made at an earlier period had I not waited expecting to be advised, to whom, or how I should make payment (having forgot the terms of the Subscription) and request now to be informed.

Had I received your favour of the 29th. of March with the first set of the Gleaner, I should, however I might have been indebted to your goodness for an excuse, have reproached myself severely for any delay in the acknowledgment of it, and of those favourable sentiments which on all occasions that have

occured, you have been pleased to express in behalf of Madam Your etc.

P. S Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis are grateful for your kind remembrance of them and requests that their compliments may be presented to you in acceptable terms.

## *To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, June 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 23d. Ulto. has been received.

Mr. Airess's draught on Mr. Russell (of Alexandria) has been presented and accepted, payable in ten days.

I am glad to hear of your good luck with the eloped tenant in Berkeley county; Recovery of the Tenement is of more importance than the security of the Rest. I am not disposed to lease it for *more* than seven years, and if you could let it for a *shorter* term, to a *good* tenant I should prefer it: but act from circumstances and your best judgment in the case. If there is any defect in the old leases they must, by this time, have become obvious to you, and will, of course, be amended; I recollect nothing that requires alteration, if the Covenants are complied with, and if the old ones are not, it is not probable New ones will.

I am sorry to hear the unpromising account of your Wheat. Mine is bad enough, but many degrees better than the description of that in your parts; nor do I perceive any fly, as yet, amongst it; but there is sufficient time between this and harvest for the entire destruction of it by that Insect. The drought could not have been more severe with you than it was here, until the 23d. ulto. Since which we have had (for my lands) a superabundance of Rain. If it had continued a few days longer we should have made neither Oats nor Hay, and our Pastures would have starved the cattle that had escaped the Winter.

What effect it might have had on the Wheat I know not, but I never form an opinion of Corn until the month of August; nor dispair of making a tolerable crop of that grain unless a drought happens when it is shooting and filling, be the weather what it may before. All here unite in best regards for Mrs. Lewis and yourself, and I remain your etc.

## *To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, June 11, 1798.

Mr. Anderson: In replying to your letter of yesterday, the following answer, and sentiments are given.

Whilst I catch fish at the landing by your house, and make flour and whiskey at my Mill and Distillery, the expence of adding to the former allowance of the two first mentioned articles, in the manner you desire, and allowing a reasonable quantity of the latter, will not be *sensibly* felt by me, and therefore I shall not object against making them; and if you can exchange the horses you now ride for others, younger and stronger, by giving *some boot,* I shall consent to this also; but I am unable to buy, for reasons which are but too obvious; nor will there be so much occasion for it, if the River farm should be committed to the management of Mr. Stuart and Mr. Rawlins is made to do some of the *Riding* as well as the *writing* business, hitherto performed by you: and if the present boy which you have, is inadequate to the services required of him, one somewhat larger might be substituted. If such other allowances as you have alluded to, are made to Managers, their *sallaries,* I have no doubt; are lessened in that proportion; I have never made any, nor do I learn fom the enquiries I have had it in my power to make that any Gentleman in Virginia gives as much even as I do, for superintending larger estates than mine; and of one

thing I am sure, that my means would not enable me to pay what I do, unaided by my Rents and the Lands I have sold.

If with the alterations I have here consented to, and not only agreeing, but *desiring* that Mr. Rawlins may execute *all* the writing (and indeed riding business, now he is freed from the apprehension of the Small pox) to which he is competent you have only one word to say Yea, or nay to fix the matter; and proceed upon the ideas which have been suggested, or such as you may propose, if adopted, after mature consideration.

It is no gratification to me to hurt the feelings of any person living by my observations; but in matters which relate to my *own* concerns, I shall, most assuredly, express at all times my opinion of them; and point to all such (in a friendly way) as appear to carry with them inattention; want of care; want of forethought; or want of œconomy in the management of them. And perhaps no time can be more appropriate than the present when you are called upon to decide upon the extension of your present engagement, to detail the observations I have made, and my sentiments thereupon.

In the first place, I have, upon all proper occasions, done you the justice to declare, oftener to others than to yourself, that I believe you are a man of strict integrity; sobriety; industry and zeal: that no person can be more ready to oblige, in all things, and upon all occasions than you are. that I believe also, that you understand the preperation of land for grain and grasses of all kinds; that you know how to put these in, and how to take them off the ground. And moreover that I believe you understand hedging, ditching, and raising live fences. These I assert in unequivocal terms, as evidence of justice I am willing to render you. At the same time, as a proof of my candour, I shall mention some other things as appear to me to be defects in your mode of carrying on business.

The first, and primary one I shall mention, although from your explanation, it seems to have proceeded from having mistaken my views; and that is, that nothing like a rotation of Crops, adopted to the quality and nature of the soil at the different Farms has ever yet appeared to be formed. without which, and a regular system I conceive it to be as much impossible to conduct the business if a Farm, to advantage, as it would be for an Architect to erect an Edifice without a Plan. Jumble, and confusion must forever result in both cases; which is always accompanied by loss of labour, or in other words loss of time, which is the loss of money. For be the kind of business what it may, if the conductor of it has not all the charts before him, in one view, and the *time* and *manner* for executing each previously arranged, it never can go on smoothly and well. To decide on a measure suddenly, and proceed unsteadily in the execution of it, will always prove erroneous. this leads me to mention in the next place, that the work of the Carpenters, and waste of their materials, have suffered much by shifting them from thing to thing, and compleating nothing.

The same thing happens in other parts of business; a few days before I went up to Doctr. Stuarts you thought it so essential that a hog pasture should be enclosed with out delay that I went to the Mill to mark out the ground; no sooner was that done than the hands which were to be employed, thereon were set about other work, and I have heard nothing more of the Hog pasture since. This is not a singular instance of your proposing, or suggesting things which appeared at that time to be highly proper, and have met entire approbation, without carrying them into effect. This is contrary to my ways of thinking and acting and not agreeable to me; for I would have everything well considered before it is proposed, and (if not intended for a future period) after it is proposed, to be executed without

any or due reason assigned for the non-performance in case of unforeseen interventions. In smaller matters too, you are too apt to promise a thing shall be done tomorrow, next day, and so on, without fulfiling it, which is not at all pleasant to a man which has practiced himself and been accustomed to meet as much regularity as I have from others.

It does not appear to me that there has been any correct, or established rule adopted in the use, and delivery of either grain or Hay; without which, wastes, if not embezzlement; is more to be expected than œconomy. The destruction of Carts, Ploughs and all other impliments, far exceed what they used to do, and it does not appear to me that when tools are delivered for extra purposes, sufficient care is taken to return them, when the end is accomplished for which they were issued.

To what causes to ascribe it, I know not, but it is a fact which must have been apparent to yourself that I have had *no* good Beef, and but indifferent other meats of my own fatting, since I came home, notwithstanding the heavy expence I have been at in feeding them: and it is to be regretted that I should derive so little advantage from a Bull, the sole inducement to buy which, was to improve my breed of Cattle; for I do not find that he has served more than a few Cows which have occasionally been here.

The hedges appear to me to have suffered much, and in many places are entirely destroyed for want of timely weeding, to cleanse them after they have been suffocated by weeds and grass is like applying to the Doctor when the paroxysm of death has last hold of the patient.

These things, and others which might be mentioned, if I had time for recollection, have proved clearly to my mind that your attention is called to too many objects, not to let some of them suffer; but I have no objection notwithstanding, to your super-

intending the whole, as usual (River farm excepted, if Stuart remains) as it seems to be your desire. But there is one thing I recommend strongly to you in this case, and that is, instead of riding from farm to Farm, in the same tract, every day, going only to where People are at work, that you would go occasionally into every field, examine every fence, see what is amiss in them; see whether my stock are in their proper places, and that of the neighbours excluded; whether the Tools and impliments (not in use) are secured from the weather, and kept from injury in other respects; examine the houses seeing what is amiss therein, particularly the Graineries; Inspecting the Negro quarters, as well for the purpose of detecting improper conduct in them; as to see if they are kept clean (being conducive to their health), to provide for the Sick when they are really so, and to drive out those who are not so. To examine the Gier of the working cattle, to prevent injury *to,* or *from* them, &ca. &ca. &ca. &ca. which, though at first view they may appear in a trifling light, are of much more importance to the owner than is generally imagined; and if a certain portion of time was allotted thereto many abuses and injuries would be discovered, and remedies applied much to the benefit of the employer, more greatly than by uniform rides; for I can, from experience say, that I rarely go out of the usual rout that I do not see something in fields where they ought not to be, and tools lying here, and there, at the mercy of any one, or exposed to injury.

In what light these observations and sentiments will be received by you I know not. They are, however, delivered from friendly motives as they relate to yourself, and from an expected benefit as they respect my business, if the effect is produced which I think desirable. They are penned in much haste and in an indigested form owing to company which allows me not time to think more at leisure. I wish you well and am etc.

## To GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

Mount Vernon, June 13, 1798.

Dear Washington: It is now near five weeks since any person of this family has heard from you, though you were requested to write once a fortnight. Knowing how apt your grandmamma is to suspect that you are sick, or that some accident has happened to you, how could you omit this?

I have said that none of us have heard from you, but it behooves me to add, that from persons in Alexandria, lately from Annapolis, I have, with much surprise, been informed of your devoting much time, and paying much attention, to a certain young lady of that place. Knowing that conjectures are often substituted for facts, and idle reports are circulated without foundation, we are not disposed to give greater credence to *these* than what arises from a fear that your application to books is not such as it ought to be, and that the hours that might be more profitably employed at your studies are mispent in this manner.

Recollect again the saying of the wise man, "There is a time for all things," and sure I am this is not a time for a *boy of your age* to enter into engagements which might end in sorrow and repentance. Yours affectionately.[76]

## *To JAMES LLOYD

Mount Vernon, June 13, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have received, and thank you, for your favour of the 6th. instant and its enclosure.

It is very consoling to perceive such expressions of the spirited feelings of the Yeomanry, and other description of the

[76] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington*.

people of this Country as appears in the Addresses, going from all quarters, to the President of the United States, and to Congress; and it is peculiar pleasing to find that *this Spirit* pervades the western parts of the Atlantic States.

Much is it to be wished that, this unanimity might effect a change in the conduct, even if it should produce no conviction in the minds, of *some* of the leaders of opposition.

What are the Sentiments of the People of Kentucky? Or has there been any reverberation yet? With esteem etc.

## To JOHN McDOWELL

Mount Vernon, June 13, 1798.

Sir: An ardent wish that young Custis should apply closely to his studies, and conduct himself with propriety under your auspices, induces me to give you the trouble of receiving these inquiries, and to know if he is in want of anything that can be provided for him by, sir, Your etc.[77]

## *To OLIVER EVANS

Mount Vernon, June 14, 1798.

Sir: I must give you the trouble of receiving one more letter from me, on the subject of a Miller. Your last was received the 26th. of April in which you promised to write to the Millers of Brandywine to know if one could be had from thence; since which I have heard nothing from you, or them; and the time is drawing near when I must be supplied, or be in the power of my present Miller, who has not many valuable properties to recommend him. I would thank you for an answer to this

[77] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington.*

letter as soon as you make it convenient to yourself, that I may know what dependence there is of getting one, from thence, or whether I must look out else where. I am etc.

## *To REVEREND JEREMY BELKNAP

Mount Vernon, June 15, 1798.

Revd. Sir: Your favour of the 29th Ulto. accompanying the Discourse delivered on the day recommended by the President of the U States to be observed for a Fast, was received in the usual course of the Mail, from Boston; and the copies therewith sent, were forwarded agreeably to your desire. My best wishes attend the prosecution of your American Biography, and (not recollecting whether the request was made before) I desire I may be considered as a Subscriber to the first Volume. To the Proposal which came under cover to me, I have fixed my name; and will lodge the Paper in the hands of a Gentleman in Alexandria for the convenience of those who may incline to become Subscribers thereto; and thereafter to return it to you.

My information relative to the family of Calvert, is more limited than the one detailed by you. I know little more of it than what is recited in the history of Virginia; but I will send a transcript of so much of your letter as relates to this subject, to a well informed Gentleman of my acquaintance in Maryland, Judge Chase, and give you the result.

I know of no other Histories of Virginia than those mentioned in your letter. But I recollect well, to have heard the late Richard Bland of Prince George Cty. say, before the Revolution, that he was either possessed of, or was collecting materials, and hoped to furnish a more correct history of it than any that was then extant. He was very competent to the under-

taking, being a man of erudition and intelligence; long a member of the Councils of this State, and afterwards a member of the first Congresses that were held in Philadelphia: I cannot add however that he was the Author of the M. S[78] transmitted to you by Carter B. Harrison. Colo. Bland, the person of whom I am speaking, has been dead more than twenty years. Bishop Madison, with whom you seem to be in the habit of corresponding, is as likely to give information on the point saught after by you, as any *one person* I am acquainted with. To the descendant of a Gentleman, (the Honble Richd Corbin, many years deceased) who it is said possessed some valuable notes relative to ancient transactions, and the actors of those times in this State, I will write; and if any thing worthy of notice is, obtained, you shall be furnished therewith.

If I can render you any service, in procuring materials for your valuable Biography, I shall feel pleasure in doing it. I hope both life and health will be dispensed to you by him, in whose hands all things are, until *this* and many others of your good works are completed. For the Discourse, which you were so obliging as to send me, and for the favourable sentiments with which it was accompanied, I pray you to accept the best thanks of Revd. Sir, &c.

## *To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have heard with much pleasure, that you contemplate a visit to the City designated for the permanent Seat of Government of the U. States, in the course of the Summer, or early in Autumn.

[78] Manuscript.

It is unnecessary, I hope, for me in that event, to express the satisfaction it would give Mrs. Washington and me to see Mrs. Adams, yourself and Company in the shade of our Vine and Fig tree; but I shall request that while you remain in these parts, that you would make Mount Vernon your Head Quarters. It is but about 17 Miles by land, and less by water from the Federal City; and only half that distance from Alexandria, which is on the direct rout between them.

I pray you to believe that, no one has read the various approbatory Addresses, which have been presented to you, with more heart-felt satisfaction than I have done; nor are there any who more sincerely wish that your Administration of the Government may be easy, happy, and honorable to yourself, and prosperous for the Country.

Present, if you please, the best respects of Mrs. Washington, Miss Custis and myself to Mrs. Adams and Miss Smith, accept them yourself, and be assured of the high esteem and regard, with which I have the honor &c.

## *To JUSTICE SAMUEL CHASE

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Dear Sir: A letter of which the enclosed is an extract, has lately been received by me from the Reverend Mr. Belknap (of New Hampshire) who is writing an American Biography.

As Mr. Belknap is a man of character and abilities, writes well, and seems anxious to be correct in what he gives to the World, he merits encouragement; and Aid from those who have it in their power to afford it. If I was able to solve the queries contained in the extract, I would have asked no assistance; but having no knowledge of the family of Calvert, further than is recited in the history of Virginia, and believing that

no person is better able to give the particulrs. of it than you are, must be my apology for troubling with this Address: to which let me add assurances of being, Dear Sir, Your etc.[79]

## *To THE TRUSTEES OF WASHINGTON ACADEMY

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Gentlemen: Unaccountable as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, that the Address with which you were pleased to honor me, dated the 12th. of April, never came to my hands until the 14th. Instant.

To promote Literature in this rising Empire, and to encourage the Arts, have ever been amongst the warmest wishes of my heart. And if the donation which the generosity of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia has enabled me to bestow on Liberty-Hall, now by your politeness called, Washington Academy, is likely to prove a mean to accomplish these ends, it will contribute to the gratification of my desires.

Sentiments like those which flowed from your Pen, excite my gratitude, whilst I offer my best vows for the prosperity of the Academy, and for the honor and happiness of those under whose auspices it is conducted.

## *To EDWARD SAVAGE

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Sir: I have been favoured with your letter of the 3d. instt, and pray you to receive my thanks for your attention in chusing the Prints which you sent to Colo. Biddle, for my use. As Mrs. Washington also does for your politeness in presenting

[79] From the press copy in the *Washington Papers*. The original is in the possession of Mrs. Theodore Vogel, of Washington, D. C.

her one in colours. We are pleased to hear that the undertaking has succeeded so well. Colo. Biddle, I presume, has paid you for the first four; being so directed. Mrs. Washington offers her Compliments to you and Mrs. Savage, and I am etc.

## *To ALEXANDER SMITH

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Sir: For such Plank and Scantling as Captn. Walters delivered, I have paid, at the rates mentioned in your letter of the 5th Inst; of which I give you notice, having done it reluctantly, as you did not direct it in your letter, and he could produce no order to that effect.

It was customary, *he said,* for him to receive payment; knew you expected it in this instance; that you wanted the money; and that he had been three years in your Service. All this might be, and I presume is true; but as my contract was with you and he a stranger to me, I thought paying the money to him was irregular (under the circumstances I have mentioned) and nothing but the fear of disappointing you excused it to be done by Sir Your etc.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 9th. instant is received. I am sorry to find that the old Coach is likely to find so bad a Market. This was slipped by Mr. Dandridge, at the time I left Philadelphia. As the case now is, it will be better to break it up for the old Iron than keep it longer on expences. And if, after trying the Table Ornaments awhile longer, at a reduced price, they will not sell, I must give some further order respecting them.

After the Pictures from Mr. Savage are paid for, and such other exhibits as are against me, entered, let me know how our A/c stands, as I shall be unwilling, at all times, to call upon you faster than you have means to answer. In the meantime please to send me one gilt frame, for a Picture, of the following dimensions, viz, four feet by three feet, two Inches in the clear; allowing a rabit of an Inch, all round, to receive the Picture; and ¾ of an Inch deep for the same purpose. Let this frame cost a dollar a foot. What I mean by the clear is, that so much of the Canvas, or Picture is to be seen, and by the Rabit, that so much thereof is to be covered by the Frame.

When the Picture for Mrs. Miller (late Mrs. Green) is sent, be so good as to accompany it with Mrs. Washington's compliments. With esteem etc.

## *To FRANCIS CORBIN

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Sir: A letter, of which the enclosed is an extract, has lately been received by me from the Revd. Mr. Belknap (of New Hampshire) who is writing an American Biography.

As Mr. Belknap is a man of character and abilities, writes, well, and seems anxious to be correct in what he gives to the Public, he merits encouragement; and aid from those who have it in their power to afford it.

Recollecting to have heard, many years ago, that *your* deceased father possessed many valuable notes of *his* father, relative to men and things in the early period of our history, I have conceived that it might be in your power to furnish Mr. Belknap with some useful information from that source; and it is the only apology I can make for giving you the trouble of receiving this Address from Sir, Your etc.

## *To WILLIAM FITZHUGH

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

My dear Sir: The Revd. Mr. Belknap is esteemed one of the best, and most correct historical writers of the present times. The work which he proposes to lay before the Public will be interesting, if well executed; and as he is taking great pains to collect information, I am persuaded it will be more so than any thing of the Biographical sort, upon a *general plan,* that has yet appeared, in this Country. Under this belief, I have taken the liberty of enclosing his proposal to you, that, if you should be so inclined, it may be offered in the Coffee house at Alexandria for Subscription. To be returned to me, after it has obtained all it is likely to receive. Best wishes attend you and family. I always am etc.

## *To THOMAS C. MARTIN

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1798.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 21st Ulto. in answer to mine, relative to the Wheat Machine.

At all events I shall, indeed have, provided the Scantling agreeably to your Bill for making one, as soon after harvest as your experiments shall have proved the Utility of their operation, by manual labour, and you shall be able to send me a skilful workman to erect it. If this should happen in all July, or even in August or September (but the sooner the better) I would thank you, provided your proofs answer your expectation, for sending a workman in whom you can confide, to me. Whatever your terms are, or agreement entered into with another, on my behalf, shall be strictly complied with on my part, by Sir, Yr. etc.

P. S. As soon as it is in your power, be so good as to let me know what I may depend upon, to prevt. disappointment.[80]

## *To JULIAN URSYN NIEMCEWICZ

Mount Vernon, June 18, 1798.

Sir: The letter with which you were pleased to honor me, dated "City of Washington 14th. June" instt. was forwarded by Mr. Law, and received from the Post Office in Alexandria yesterday.

The pleasure this family derived from the favour of your Company in our retired Situation, could only be equalled by the regret we felt at parting with you; and by our wishes if you should again visit this part of the United States, that you would not pass the shades of Mount Vernon without participating in the refreshment of them.

That your country is not as happy as your struggle to make it so, was Patriotic and Noble, is a matter which all lovers of national Liberty and the Rights of Man, have sorely lamented: and if my Vows, during the arduous contest could have availed, you would *now,* have been as happy in the enjoyment of these desirable blessings under your own Vine and Fig Tree, as the People of these United States may be under theirs.

The flattering expressions of your letter, excites all my Sensibility; and in making a tender of the best wishes of Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis for your polite remembrance of them, I do not forget to pray, although I am persuaded, nothing can eradicate from a mind susceptible as yours is, the recollection of those misfortunes which have befallen your Country, that you may experience in this, such attentions, as may have a tendency to alleviate the poignancy of them.

With very great esteem etc.[81]

[80] From a photostat of the original in the *Washington Papers.*

[81] The letter sent is in the possession (1938) of Pierre Beres, of Paris, France.

## To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, June 22, 1798.

Dear Sir: I am not disposed to withdraw your attention from more important matters; or to be troublesome in any degree; or to press my Correspondence upon you. But not having even heard whether my letter, of which the enclosed is taken from a Press copy ever reached your hands, I am induced to make the enquiry.

I wish also to know what has been done with a letter of mine, put under cover to you (early in March last) to be forwarded, or suppressed at your discretion, to a Mr. John Parker, who exhibited Proposals to the Public, for compiling a complete Edition of *All* the Journals of Congress from the earliest period of them down to the present day?[82] With respect, I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

## *To JAMES LLOYD

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 25th. Instant has been duly received, and I feel much obliged by your polite attentions to me.

[82] McHenry answered (June 26): "With respect to Parker. I would have delivered him your letter, had I not learned, that he had connected himself with a Democrat printer, one Follwel, who conducts the work he had undertaken, I thought it best therefore, not to give a person the countenance of your name whose politics, according to my information intitled him to none." Later, in this same letter, he wrote: "Gerry has been playing the double politician, and besides a very foolish and hurtful game. He held conversations and consultations with Tallyrand, which he concealed for some time from his colleagues, or till they could no longer be concealed . . . he has been addressed today, in a manner which he will find it difficult to misconstrue, and which . . . will prevent him from doing further mischief, or longer sporting with the honour dignity and interests of his country. . . . I think it probable that letters of Marque and reprisal will be shortly declared. You see how the storm thickens and that our vessel will soon require its antient pilot. Will you, may we flatter ourselves, that in a crises so awful and important you will accept the command of all our armies? I hope you will, because you alone, can unite all hearts and hands, if it is possible that they can be united." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

I rejoiced to hear of General Marshall's arrival, and wish sincerely that he had been accompanied by his Colleagues, for I believe no Country will afford them better protection than their own. The stay of one of them,[83] has a misterious appearance after having jointly declared, "that no one of them is authorised to take upon himself a Negociation evidently entrusted by the letter of the Powers and Instructions to the whole," and that too, after the invidious distinction was made by the minister of foreign Relations; which ought in my opinion, to have filled him with resentment, instead of complaisance.

I wonder the French Government has not more pride than to expose to the world such flimsy performances as the ministers of it exhibit by way of *complaint and argument.* But it is still more to be wondered at, that these charges, which have been refuted over and over again, should find men ...[84] The Editor of the Aurora . . . and bolder! Whence his support? How does the advocating French . . . account for the . . . the British? . . .

## *To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1798.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed what manner I am disappointed in receiving the Rent for my house in Alexandria. These things put you, the payer and myself, in an aukward situation; for it must seem strange to demand what has been paid. I must therefore request, in explicit terms, that you will receive no more monies due to me; and I should be glad to have a statement of the A/c as it stands between us, since the last was rendered; it appearing by information from my Collector in Montgomery County, Maryland, that some

[83] Elbridge Gerry.
[84] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [ . . . ] are illegible.

part of my Rents there, had been paid to you since the period above mentioned.

I have not the smallest doubt of my being credited for every farthing you receive on my A/c; but that does not remedy the evil. With sincere esteem and regard, I am etc.

## *To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, June 26, 1798.

Dear Sir: Mr. Anderson requesting that the boy who was going to the Post Office yesterday, might call and deliver a letter to you, from him, concerning flour. Availing myself of that conveyance, I sat down, and was in the act of writing the hasty lines you received from me by him, when I was summoned to dinner. In my hurry to close and Seal it, I omitted the enclosure then refered to, and which is now forwarded.

I can only repeat, what I mentioned yesterday, that I never had the most distant suspicion that every farthing that you had received, or might receive on my A/c, would be justly credited; but this will not supply my wants, and it would be uncandid and inconsistent with the frankness of friendship, not to declare that I have not approved, nor cannot approve, of having my money received and applied to uses not my own, without my consent; and even without advice of it; which, among other improprieties of the measure, involves the aukward, and unpleasant consequences mentioned in my letter of yesterday.

You must be too well acquainted with the product of my Farms, and the expence I live at, to need information that my income, arising from them, would not meet my expenditures; and that, had it not been for monies arising from the Sale of Lands, my business must have stopped; or my embarrassments at this moment would have been great: and in this last resourse,

I have met with disappointments; for of three, nay four, Instalments for different tracts of land, *now,* and sometimes *since* due, I see no likelihood of receiving a shilling.

I do not bring these facts to your view with intention of reminding you of your Debt to me. On the contrary, take your own time, and convenience, to pay it; but let the *whole a/c* be settled, that I may see, and know the precise statement of the Balance between us. With the greatest esteem and friendship, I remain etc.

## *To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, June 26, 1798.

My dear Sir: If you could have foreseen the length of passage, to which your letter of the 23d. of April was destined, there would have been no occasion to have hurried yourself in writing it in order to receive a conveyance by the brother of Mr. Neale: for Saturday last was (and by the way of Richmond too,) the first of its appearance in my hands.

Knowing that Mr. Corbin Washington had arrived safe in Westmoreland, and presuming that he had delivered my letter to you; I was unable to account for your silence; as a letter, deposited in any of the Post Offices, would be certain of a conveye.

It would, I am certain, be very difficult to fix a price at this time, in a contract for Corn of seven years continuance, that might not bear hard upon one side or the other before the expiration thereof, and my only reasons for proposing of it (the chances being equal) was, that each party might know *precisely* what it had to trust to. I have no objection however to make the quantity, while both of us are alive, certain; that is, five hundred barrels; and leave the value to the Alexandria *cash*

*price* at the moment of its delivery, to be ascertained by one, two or more respectable purchasers of *that* article in *that* place.

You will observe that I have marked the *Cash price*. the reason is obvious, for all others are vague and indefinite; because there are too many purchasers in that, as well as in other places who will engage to give *anything* on credit, and pay *nothing;* as I have, and you might have experienced, if your Agents had not been cautious men. and because I would contract to pay on the delivery of the Grain.

The times most convenient for me to receive it, would be in the months of Aprl. May and June; after the Vernal Equinox: and if there were intervals between the delivery of the respective loads of a fortnight, three weeks, or even a month it would be more accomodating than inconvenient to me.

If you accede to these proposals, I will contract for five hundred barrels annually; and if my Distillery goes on, to the contrary of which I know nothing, at present, it is more than probable I might take five hundred barrels more from you, yearly, which would give you a certain market and sure pay, at the Alexandria *Cash price* at the time of delivering *each* load; to be ascertained in the manner before mentioned; to do which there can be *no* difficulty as the Books of the purchasers will shew what it was on any day in the year. On credit this would be uncertain, because the man who means to pay punctually at the end of two, three, four or six months, will not go beyond a certain price; whereas another, who knows before hand that he shall not be punctual, or possibly, that he shall never pay, is not very scrupulous with regard to price.

If I should see Mr. Anderson (my Manager) before this letter is closed, I will enquire if he is in want of Corn for the Distillery and let you know. He (though I do not blame him) has made a bad hand in the purchase of that article, this year;

having given Sixteen, and from that to 18/. in the Winter ready money when two dollers Cash cannot now be had for it at Norfolk. So Doctor Stuart informs me, who has received this advice from the Manager of Mr. Custis's Estate on York River, where there is a large quantity of it for Sale. The price of Corn in Alexandria, at this moment, I know not. Our best wishes attend you and family, and I am etc.[85]

## *To JAMES LLOYD

Mount Vernon, June 27, 1798.

Sir: Accept my thanks for your favour of the 21st. Instant, and its enclosure. When the *whole* correspondence between our Envoys and the French Minister of Foreign Relations[86] and his agents is brought into one view, and laid before the Public, it will be extremely interesting; and must, I conceive, carry conviction to every mind that is open to it, of what the French now are, and have been aiming at, from the beginning of their Revolution; or from an early period of it, at least. And will, at the sametime shew them, in what manner they have been imposed upon by those whose objects were not to be promoted by truth, or a clear understanding of matters.

Genl. Marshall is so capable of making accurate observations, that I am persuaded his information may be relied on with certainty. With great esteem etc.

## To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1798.

Dr Sir: Your favours of the 24th and 25th inst have been received.

[85] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach. of New York City.

[86] In the so-called "X. Y. Z." affair.

For the stars, enclosed in this letter, I thank you. The amount of cost, six dollars, is herein remitted. I prefered sending a Columbia Bank note for a dollar, to one of silver (in a letter) as it can readily be exchanged for the latter, and the other Banks issue no notes under five dollars.

For the box which accompanied the letter of the 24th I feel much obliged. I have not had time yet to examine, and compare the figures with the instructions; but prima facie, there is something curious, and I dare say useful in the design.

I shall send up to Alexandria on Wednesday; but shall feel no disappointment if my uniform is not there. With very great esteem etc.[87]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 26th. Ulto. propounds a very serious, interesting and important question to me; a question that might have been answered with less delay if I had been as much in the habit since, as before I became a private Citizen, of sending regularly to the Post Office on Post days for letters.

The sentiments which I mean to express to you in this letter on the subject of yours, shall be frank, undisguised and explicit; for I see, as you do, that clouds are gathering and that a Storm may ensue. And I find too, from a variety of hints, that my quiet under these circumstances does not promise to be of long continuance.

It cannot be necessary for me to premise to you, or to others who know my Sentiments as well, that to quit the tranquil walks of retirement, and enter the boundless field of responsibility and trouble, would be productive of sensations which a

[87] From the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

better pen than I possess would find it difficult to describe. Nevertheless, the principle by which my conduct has been actuated through life, would not suffer me, in any great emergency, to withhold any services I could render, required by my Country. especially in a case where its dearest rights are assailed by lawless ambition, and intoxicated power, contrary to every principle of justice, and in violation of solemn compact, and Laws which govern all Civilized Nations. And this too with obvious intent to sow thick the Seeds of disunion for the purpose of subjugating the Government and destroying our Independence and happiness.

Under circumstances like these accompanied by an actual Invasion of our territorial rights, it would be difficult for me, at any time, to remain an idle spectator under the plea of Age or Retirement. With sorrow, it is true, I should quit the shades of my peaceful abode and the ease and happiness I now enjoy to encounter anew the turmoils of War to which, possibly, my strength and powers might be found incompetent. These, however, should not be stumbling blocks in my *own* way; but there are other things highly important for me to ascertain, and settle, before I could give a decided answer to your question.

First. The propriety, in the opinion of the public (so far as that opinion has been expressed in conversation) of my appearing again on a Public theatre after declaring the sentiments I did in my Valedictory Address, of September 1796.

Second. A conviction in my own breast (from the best information that can be obtained) that it is the wish of my Country that the Military force of it should be committed to my charge, and

Third. That the Army now to be formed should be so appointed as to afford a well grounded hope of its doing honor to the Country, and credit to him who Commands it in the field.

On each of these heads you must allow me to make observations.

With respect to the first, it will readily be admitted under the circumstances I at present am, that nothing short of an imperious call would, or ought to draw me from Retirement; and unless this was apparent, the advantages (if any are expected from the measure) would not only be weakened, but might be defeated altogether; for the opposers of Government, with a view to lessen its influence, would denounce it at once, a restless Act; evinsive of my discontent in retirement, and that my love for it was all a sham. Knowing the purity of my own intentions, such observations would make no impression on my personal feelings, but the necessity thereof, in the eyes of the Public, ought to be unequivocal: for it would be uncandid in me not to confess that although I highly approve of all the defensive and precautionary measures that have been adopted, and wish they had been more energetic; yet, that I cannot believe since the *People* of this Country (on whose defection the calculation was made) have come forward with such strong and unequivocal assurances, to defend, at all hazards their Government and Independence; maugre the attempts to divert them from it; that the Directory of France, intoxicated and abandoned as it is, will have the folly to invade our *Territorial Rights,* otherwise than by predatory attempts on the Seaboard. Unless their Agents and Partisans among us, in defiance of the evidence of their Senses, should still have the wickedness and address to make that Government believe that nothing but a force to give countenance to its friends, is wanting, to effectuate all they wish. This, sir, is my opinion with respect to a *formidable* Invasion. Perhaps with the Information and lights in possession of the Executive, I might think differently.

On the second head, I shall be more concise, because as my whole life has been dedicated to the Service of my Country, in one shape or another, for the poor remains of it it is not an object, to contend for ease and quiet, when all that is valuable in it, is at stake, further than to be satisfied that the sacrifice I should make of these is acceptable, and desired by my Country; for as neither Ambition, Interest, or personal gratification of any sort, could induce me to quit the walks of private life, to be disappointed in the *only* object I should have in view, would be mortifying beyond my powers of utterance. And what this public opinion and wish is, on this occasion, I know not; for I have studiously avoided touching on the subject, lest some inference, contrary to my meaning, should be drawn from it.

I express these ideas not from Affectation, for I despise everything that carries the appearance of it; But from the *knowledge* that as it is the fashion of the present day, set, or adopted, by the French, with whom we are to contend, and with great and astonishing success too, to appoint Generals of Juvenile years to lead their Armies, it might not be improbable that similar ideas, and wishes, might pervade the minds of our own Citizens; when to this a fear might be added, that age may have wrought too powerfully on my body and mind, to make it advisable to commit so important a trust to my direction.

On the third head you must permit me to dwell a little more at large. If an Army was in existence, and an Officer invited to take command of it, his course would be plain for he would have nothing more to do than to examine the Constitution of it, and to enquire into the composition, to enable him to decide; but we have one to form, and much indeed depends upon the formation. If a judicious choice is not made of the principal Officers, and above all, of the General Staff, in the first instance,

it never can be rectified thereafter. The character then of the Army would be lost in the Superstructure; the reputation of the Commander in Chief would sink with it, and the Country be involved in inextricable expence.

It is impossible, I know, for the Executive to be intimately acquainted with the qualifications of the Battalion Officers and perhaps from the manner in which the Volunteer Corps may offer themselves, little will be left to his choice: the presumption however is, that as these Corps will be composed of respectible Citizens, the Officers will be good, and worthy of as much confidence as can be placed in untried men. The great desiderata lyes in the appointment of the General Officers of the line, and of the Staff; particularly the latter; and the first consists in a great measure in determining whether they shall be taken from the *old set* of Generals, or formed a new, from the most experienced, intelligent, and best proved officers of the late American Army, without regard to Grade.

From the want of the list which I left in the Presidential Office by which my memory could be refreshed as to names, it would be hazardous, and might be improper to give a decided opinion on this head, but I have no great scruple in saying that I incline strongly to the latter mode; for if this Country is seriously invaded our system of warfare must be the very reverse of the last.

To remark to a Military Man how all important the General Staff of an Army is to its well being, and how essential consequently to the Commander in Chief, seems to be unnecessary; and yet a good choice is of such immense consequence, that I must be allowed to explain myself.

The Inspector General, Quartermaster General, Adjutant General, and Officer commanding the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers, ought to be men of the most respectable characters,

and of first rate abilities; because, from the nature of their respective Offices, and from their being always about the Commander in Chief who is obliged to entrust many things to them *confidentially,* scarcely any movement can take place without their knowledge. It follows then, that besides possessing the qualifications just mentioned, they ought to have those of Integrity and prudence in an eminent degree, that *entire* confidence might be reposed in them; without these and their being on good terms with the Commanding General his measures if not designedly thwarted may be so embarrassed as to make them move heavily on.

If the Inspector General is not an Officer of great respectability of character, firm, and strict in discharging the duties of the trust reposed in him; or if he is too pliant in his disposition, he will, most assuredly be imposed upon, and the efficient strength and condition of the Army will not be known to the Commander in Chief; of course he may form his Plans upon erroneous calculations and commit fatal mistakes.

If the Quartermaster General is not a man of great resource and activity, and worthy of the *highest* confidence, he would be unfit for the *Military* Station he is to occupy; for as it is not possible, at all times, to mask real designs and movements under false appearances *from him,* the better and safer way is, to place full confidence in him under the seal of responsibility; then, knowing the plan, he participates in the concealment; on which, and the celerity of a movement success oftentimes, *entirely* depend. In addition to these requisites in a Quarter Master General, Œconomy in providing for the wants of an Army; proper arrangements in the distribution of the Supplies, and a careful eye to the use of them, is of great importance, and calls for a circumspect choice.

The Adjutant Genl. ought also to be a man of established character, of great activity and experience in the details of an

Army, and of proved integrity, or no alertness can be expected in the execution of the several duties consigned to him on the one hand, and every thing to be feared from treachery, or neglect in his Office, on the other; by which the enemy might be as well informed of our strength as their own.

Though last mentioned it is not least important that so essential and Scientific a part of the Army as the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers should have an able and respectable Officer at their head, without which it would soon sink into ignorance and disrepute.

Humanity, and feeling for the sick and wounded of an Army call loudly for skill, attention, and œconomy in the Director of the Hospitals, and without the latter qualification, profusion, and misapplication of its stores, will inevitably take place.

Able, well informed, active, and spirited General officers, are, no doubt, of high importance to the honor, reputation and success of any Army, but I have confined my observations in a more particular manner to those of the General Staff, who may be considered as so many parts of the Commander in Chief. Viewing them then in this light it will readily be seen how essential it is that they should be agreeable to him. Such characters are within my view if they would accept.

I have run into great prolixity, in order to give you a comprehensive view of my ideas on the subject of your letter, and the principles by which I am governed. Without these explanations, the answer might have been conveyed in a few words as follows.

When I retired to the walks of private life, I had no idea that any event would occur that could induce me to leave them. That the pain I should feel, if it be my fate to do so, cannot easily be expressed;

Yet

If this Country should actually be Invaded, or such manifestations of a design to do it, as cannot be mistaken, I should be ready to render every Service in my power to repel it;

Provided,

My declining years is not considered as an objection to the trust; but on the contrary (and in support of the partiality which may actuate the President in my favor) it shall appear unequivocally, to you and to those with whom you act, being at the centre of information from all parts of the Union, and where a Commander for the Troops to be raised, must often have been the subject of conversation, that the Public wish was directed to me, notwithstanding my avowed declaration when I retired from Office to remain a private Citizen.

and provided also,

That I can have such characters associated with me, as will render the turmoils of War, and the burthen of the Command, as light as the nature of it will admit; for it is well known that the vicissitudes of war, are not within the reach of human controul; and the chances of adding to, are not greater than the hazard of taking from, that reputation the partiality of the World has been pleased to confer, for past Services; and that not prompted, as I have observed in a former part of this letter, by motives of Ambition, or Interest, to embark again on a theatre so arduous and responsible, I might, in the course of events be left with the single consolation of *knowing, myself,* though, possibly, deprived even of the credit of *that,* by the malevolence of others; that a sense of duty was the *only* motive which had induced me to run the risk; and to make the Sacrifice of my ease and quiet at the sametime.

In a very handsome polite and flattering letter with which I have lately been honored by the President, he has *hinted* in very delicate terms, (not to be misunderstood), a wish that the

Command of the Military force of this Country might be in me.[88] I did not conceive myself at liberty, however, to go into such details and explanations with him, as, from the habits of intimacy I have always been in with you, I thought myself authorised to talk with you, who may be assured of the sincere esteem and affectionate regards of.

## *To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Not being in the habit since my return to private life, of sending regularly to the Post Office (nine miles from hence) every Post day, it often happens that letters addressed to me lye longer there, on that account, than they otherwise would do.

I have delayed no time, unnecessarily, since I had the honor of receiving your very obliging favour of the 22d. Ulto, to thank you for the polite and flattering sentiments you have been pleased to express relatively to me, and to assure you, that as far as it is in my power to support your Administration, and to render it easy, happy and honorable, you may command me without reserve.

[88] President Adams's letter of June 22, 1798, is one of those abstracted from the *Washington Papers* by William B. Sprague. It is now in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A photostat of it is in the *Washington Papers*. In it Adams acknowledged Washington's letter of June 17, *q. v.*, and stated: "The approbatory Addresses, are very prescious to me, as they discover more union among the States and more unanimity among the People than was expected. My Administration, will not certainly be easy to myself. It will be happy, however if it is honourable. . . . I have no qualifications for the martial part of it, which is like to be the most essential. If the Constitution and your Convenience would admit of my Changing Places with you, or of my taking my old station as your Lieutenant civil, I should have no doubts of the ultimate Prosperity and Glory of the Country. In forming an Army, whenever I must come to that Extremity, I am at an immense Loss whether to call out all the old Generals, or to appoint a young Sett. If the French come here We must learn to march with a quick Step, and to Attack, for in that way only they are said to be vulnerable. I must tax you, Sometimes for Advice. We must have your Name, if you, in any case will permit us to use it. There will be more efficacy in it, than in many an Army."

At the Epoch of my retirement, an Invasion of these States by any European Power, or even the probability of such an event happening, *in my days,* was so far from being contemplated by me, that I had no conception that that, or any other occurrence would arise, in so short a period, which could turn my eyes from the shades of Mount Vernon. But this seems to be the Age of Wonders! and reserved for intoxicated and lawless France (for purposes of Providence far beyond the reach of human ken) to slaughter its own Citizens, and to disturb the repose of all the World besides.

From a view of the past, from the prospect present; and of that which seems to be expected, it is not easy for me to decide, satisfactorily, on the part it might best become me to act. In case of *actual* Invasion by a formidable force, I certainly should not Intrench myself under the cover of Age and retirement, if my services should be required by my Country, to assist in repelling it. And if there be good cause, which must be better known to the Government than to private Citizens to expect such an event, delay in preparing for it, might be dangerous, improper, and not to be justified by prudence. The uncertainty however of the latter, in my mind, creates *my* embarrassment; for I cannot fairly, bring it to believe, disregardful as the French are of Treaties, and of the Law of Nations; and capable as I conceive them to be of *any* species of Despotism and Injustice, that they will attempt to invade this Country, after such a uniform and unequivocal expression of the sense of the *People,* in all parts, to oppose them with their lives and fortunes.

That they have been led to believe by their Agents, and Partisans amongst Us, that we are a divided People; that the latter are opposed to their own Government; and that a show of a small force would occasion a revolt, I have *no* doubt; and how

far these men, (grown desperate) will further attempt to deceive, and may succeed in keeping up the deception, is problematical. Without this, the folly of the Directory, in such an attempt, would, I conceive, be more conspicuous, if possible, than their wickedness.

Having with candour made this disclosure of the state of my Mind, it remains only that I should add, that to those who know me best, it is best known that if imperious circumstances should induce me to renounce the smooth paths of Retirement for the thorny ways of Public life, at a period too, when repose is most congenial to nature, and a calm indispensable for contemplation, that it would be productive of Sensations which can be more easily conceived than expressed.

The difficulty in which you expect to be involved, in the choice of General Officers when you come to form the Army, is certainly a serious one; and in a Government like ours, where there are so many considerations to be attended to and to combine, will be found not a little perplexing. But as the mode of carrying on the War against the Foe that threatens; must differ widely from that practised in the contest for Independence, it will not be an easy matter, I conceive, to find among the *old set* of Generals, Men of sufficient activity, energy and health, and of sound politics, to train troops, to the *quick step,* long marches, and severe conflicts they may have to encounter; and therefore that recourse must be had (for the greater part at least) to the well known, most experienced, best proved, and intelligent Officers of the late Army; without respect to Grade.

I speak with diffidence however on this head; having no list by me from which my memory could be refreshed. There is one thing though, on which I can give a decided opinion; and as it is of the utmost importance to the Public, to the Army, and to the Officer Commanding it, be him whom he will, I will take the liberty of suggesting it *now;* It is, that the greatest

circumspection be used in appointing the General Staff. If this Corps is not composed of respectable characters; knowledge of the duties of their respective Departments; able, active and firm; and of incorruptible integrity, and prudence; and withal such as the Commander in Chief can place entire confidence in, his plans and movements if not defeated altogether, may be so embarrassed and retarded as to amount nearly to the same thing; and this almost with impunity on their part.

The Inspector General, Quarter Master General, Adjutant General, and General of the Corps of Artillerest and Engineers may be considered as so many limbs, or parts of the Commander in Chief, on whom he *must* depend for correct returns, and distinct information [of] matters in their respective [lines. Much] depends also upon the zeal, [alacrity and secre]sy with which orders are [executed; and it] being impossible, at all [times; scarcely] indeed at any time, to Mask [designs fro]m some of them, on account of the [part] they have to act in the preparation; [it] is better to make them fully acquainted with the design and thereby make them responsible, than to leave them in the field of conjecture, where no particular responsibility would be attached. The care and comfort of the sick and wounded, and Œconomy of providing and distributing Hospital Stores, depend so much upon the skill, integrity, and activity of the Director of it, that I cannot forbear mentioning this Officer also, as an importt. one.

The opening given me in your letter is such as hath prompted me to express these sentiments with freedom; and persuading myself that you will ascribe them to pure motives, although they may differ from your own ideas, I have no doubt of their being well received. With the greatest respect and consideration, I have the honr. &c.[89]

[89] The press copy is mutilated and the words within brackets are supplied from the photostat of Tobias Lear's copy of this letter in the New York Public Library.

## *To FERDINANDO FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have given the enclosed as attentive a reading as the time allowed, and the letters I had to write by the Mail of this day, would permit.

The observations appear to me to be well founded. But as I have formed no decisive opinion or determination with respect to my own S——s.[90] As there are blanks to be filled in the Address. And as there is a Reference to a work I have either never seen, or if seen have forgotten; I would request, under these circumstances, that the Dedication of your Work to me for which I feel sensible of the honor, may not be accompanied with the Words "by permission." With very great esteem etc.

## *To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter and A/c of the 2d. Instt. and presume it is all right. I wish however you had charged the Scow, and given credit for the articles had from Mr. Anderson, as it was my wish to have seen a complete State of it.

The thousand dollars lent, was not on usury; and therefore I desire it may be struck out of your A/c, as I shall do it out of mine, when it comes to be entered in my Ledger. I mean the Interest, which you have given me credit for $60. And it is not my desire, as I mentioned in my former letter, that you should put yourself to any inconvenience in paying the principal.

I have been so much engaged for the few days, past, that I have been unable to look into my accounts whatever; of course,

[90] Status.

I cannot now say what has been charged to me, as paid to you. I recollect however, that this was plead, when my Collector in Maryland was called upon for my Rents.

My Papers are yet in such a jumble, that I know not where, readily to look for your former A/c; but it dwells upon my Memory that in that, I was charged with £50 paid the Trustees of the Academy in Alexandra. if I am right in this, the Treasurer thereof, has received a years annuity more than the School is entitled to. Reference to your Books, if you have them by you, or to the A/c rendered to me when I come across it, will decide the matter at once. With very great esteem etc.

## *To ARCHIBALD McCLEAN

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1798.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 2d, which I received yesterday; I inform you that I am not indisposed to part with my small tract (587 Acres) fifteen miles below Wheeling on the Ohio: nor to receiving improved property in the Town of Alexandria in exchange for it; provided you will allow the value I set upon my land, and will take what indifferent and disinterested men shall say is the worth of yours.

I have refused eight dollars an Acre for the tract above mentioned and have held it at ten dollars. If you have ever been on it, a description thereof is unnecessary. If you have not I believe I may venture to pronounce it the most valuable tract, for its size, on that part of the River; being in the shape of a horse shoe; and all bottom of the richest quality, excepting high ground for buildings, &ca. I am etc.[91]

[91] The original of the letter sent is in the possession of Paul Steinbrecker & Co., of Chicago, Ill.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 5, 1798.

My dear Sir: I am perfectly satisfied that the duties of your Office were not diminished by the business thrown upon it in the course of the present Session of Congress; and far was it from my wish to add to the trouble of them. I expected no more than a simple acknowledgment of my letters, and with respect to the proposed Arsenal at the confluence of the Potomac and Shanondoah, that you would have said it *had,* or had *not* been forgotten, according to the fact.

I am well satisfied with your reply to my last; better perhaps than you will be with the trouble of reading the lengthy Scrawl herewith enclosed, to which it has given rise: and which, if you please, *as from yourself,* may be shewn to the President; to whom I have expressed tantamount sentiments in more concise terms. If you are at liberty, and deem it expedient, communicate the responses which shall be made to it to me.

The Presidents letter to me, though not so expressed in terms, is, nevertheless strongly indicative of a wish that I should take charge of the Military force of this Country; and if I take his meaning right, to aid also in the Selection of the General Officers. The appointment of these are *important;* but those of the General Staff, are *all important:* insomuch that if I am looked to as the Commander in Chief, I must be allowed to chuse such as will be agreeable to me. To say more at *present,* would be unnecessary; first, because an army may not be wanted; and 2d. because I might not be endulged in this choice if it was.

You will readily perceive that a main difficulty with *me,* in this business, proceeds from the different epochs at which the army may be formed, and at which it would be proper for me to take the Command of it (in case the preliminaries mentioned in my other letter are solved to my satisfaction). The Presidt. knowing that 10,000 men cannot be raised by the blowing of a Trump, might deem it expedient from such appearances or information as would justify him under the Act, to prepare for the worst. I, on the other hand, have no disposition, and think it would be bad policy, to come forward before the emergency *becomes evident;* farther, than that it might be known, that I *will* step forward when it does appear so, unequivocally; and if the matters, for which I have stipulated, as previously necessary, are ascertained, and accommodated, I shall have no objection to the Annunciation (if good would result from it) of this determination. But what is to be done in the interval? I see but two ways to overcome the difficulty, if it is an object to accomodate my wishes; first, to delay the appointment of the General Staff, to the latter Epoch, if no inconvenience would result from it; or, if this cannot be, then to advise with me on the appointment of them. I mention this matter *now,* and in this *manner,* because I have some reason to believe, that there are very fit men that would be coadjutors with me, whose services without, could not be commanded.

Although I have made my stand at the General Staff, I conceive that much will depend upon active and spirited Officers for the Divisions and Brigades of the Army. And (under the rose) I shall candidly declare, that I do not, from my present recollection of them, conceive that a desirable set could be formed from the old Generals; some on account of their age or infirmities; some from never having displayed any talents for

Enterprise; and others from their general opposition to the Government, or their predilection to French measures, be their present conduct what it may. for those who will come up with a flowing tide, will descend with the Ebb. and there can be no dependence upon them in Moments of difficulty. If circumstances would allow a choice of Field Officers, the Service would be much benefited by it.

With my two letters I must have tired you sufficiently, and therefore I shall only add, what you knew before, and that is, that I am Your Affectionate &c.

PS. I have already been applied to by a Gentleman to recommend him for Director of the Hospital, which I have refused; as well on general ground as because if I should ever have occasion for Physician or Surgeon, I should prefer my old Surgeon, Doctr. Craik, who from 40 years experience is better qualified than a dozen of them together.

## *To HENRY PHILIPS

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1798.

Sir: I have been favoured with your obliging letter of the 24th. Ulto,[92] explaining a matter which before the receipt of it, was to me, an enigma.

A case to my Address was of course opened, when two elegant Prints appearing therein, unaccompanied with a letter, made me suspect that there must have been a mistake in the direction; and, under this impression, I was about to repack them; and should have done so, if I had known where, or to whom to have sent them.

Permit me now, my good Sir, to offer my grateful thanks, through you, to Mr. F. Philips your brother,[93] for this instance

[92] In the *Washington Papers.*
[93] Francis Philips.

of his politeness to me, and to request the favour of you to make my apology to him for not having done so at an earlier period, for Pictures so much, and so deservedly admired.[94]

Present me, I pray you, in terms most acceptable to Mrs. Philips, to which Please to add those of Mrs. Washington, and our joint respects and compliments to Mr. Chews family. I am etc.

## *To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1798.

Dr. Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 2d. of July; and enclosed are the two Tobacco notes which were forwarded to me by you, and another which had been paid some time before to Mr. Lear. Nos. &ca. as below.[95] and request the favour of you to dispose of them in safe hands, for what they will fetch. In this case giving 60 or 120 days credit will make but little difference with me; A promissory note being given for the amount. We are glad to hear you are all well. we are as usual, and I am etc.

## *To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1798.

Sir: It is not more strange than true, that your letter of the 15th. of July 1797, was not received by me until the 28th. Ulto; accompanied with the original Surveys of the Counties of Clackmannan, Kinross and Sterling. The Packet appeared to have passed through the hands of Mr. King (our Minister)

[94] Philips states that his brother (Francis Philips) "felt himself so much obliged by your attention to him that he has sent out to me an etching and proof Print of a celebrated Painting by the late Mr. Wright of Derby in England, with a request that I would beg your acceptance of them in his name, which I now beg leave to do; the Print is called 'the Dead Soldier.'"

[95] The numbers and weights are entered at the end of this letter.

and to have been forwarded by a Mr. Frederick Lee in the Ship Adriana; but through what circuitous route, to be eleven months on its passage, is not easy to determine, as it came from the Post Office to me without explanation, but in very good order.

I perceive too, in looking over my file of unanswered letters, that I am indebted for your obliging favour of the 24th. of February: received since I had the honor to Address you on the 15th. of May by my neighbour and friend the Revd. Mr. Fairfax and that my thanks are, in a particular manner also due to the politeness of the Board of Agriculture for directing a compleat set of its Works to be neatly bound, and sent to me.

The manner in which the early Wheat (respecting which you enquire) came into this Country, is not ascertained. The history of it, so far as it has come to my knowledge, I will relate. A Farmer, walking in a field of Wheat when it was in bloom, discovered a plant or two, that was perfectly ripe, and carefully separating it from the rest, sowed it at the usual time the following Autumn. From this *small* beginning (abt. seven years ago) this State, and those adjoining, are well in Seed. The grain is white, full and heavy; weighing, generally, two or three pounds more in the bushel of Winchester measure. It makes excellent flour; and in tight loamy land inclining to Sand it is said to be more productive of grain, and less of Straw than Wheat in common. It is a tender plant, and apt to receive damage, both in the field and Garners. It will not, from report, bear transportation. Of a vessel load sent to Philadelphia for Seed, hardly any of it vegitated; and some farmers go so far as to declare, that they are obliged to spread what is intended for Seed, thin on their Barn floors and turn it frequently to prevent the injury above mentioned. From my own experience I can add but little, for as my land is heavy, stiff and slow, not much

of it has been sown; but, from the growth of the present year, I send you a sack; that by experiment you may ascertain the utility of cultivating it in England. It is fit to harvest three weeks sooner than the Lamas. To give it the best chance to escape injury on Ship board, I have requested the Owner of the Vessel (a Mr. Wm. Wilson of Alexandria) to give it in particular charge to the Master, desiring him to keep the Sack in his Cabbin or Steerage.

The Egyptian Wheat, a head or two of which you had the goodness to send me (about two years ago) has not answered, with me. The first year it shot out lateral branches from the heads pretty generally; but this year the heads had hardly any, and in neither year did the grain fill well, and appears to have sustained more injury from the severity of our last Winter, than the wheat in common; although that was great in the extreme in the middle and upper parts of this, and the States bordering thereon; occasioned by the long winter and severe frosts with very little Snow. Nearer the Sea Board, contrary to what is usual, they have had more Snow, and of course the Crops of Winter grain are better; but on the whole they are remarkably short. With very great esteem, &c.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 11, 1798.

Dear Sir: As I never get letters by the Mail until the morning after they arrive in Alexandria, and frequently not for several days, as I am not regular in sending thither, your favour of the 6th instant did not reach my hands until yesterday.

Of the abilities and fitness of the Gentleman you have named for a high command in the *Provisional Army,* I think as you do, and that his Services ought to be secured at *almost* any

price.[96] What the difficulties are that present themselves to the mind of the President in opposition to this measure, I am entirely ignorant; but in *confidence,* and with the frankness you have disclosed your own sentiments on this occasion, I will unfold mine, under the view I have taken of the prospect before us, and shall do it concisely.

*If* the French should be so *mad* as openly, and formidably to Invade these United States, in expectation of subjugating the Government; laying them under Contribution, or in hopes of dissolving the Union; I conceive there can hardly be two opinions respecting their Plan, and that their operations will commence in the Southern quarter. 1. because it is the weakest. 2. because they will expect, from the tenor of the debates in Congress, to find more friends there. 3. because there can be no doubt of their Arming our own Negros against us. and 4. because they will be more contiguous to their Islands; and to Louisiana, if they should be possessed thereof, which they will be if they can.

If these premises are just, the inference I am going to draw, from placing Colo. Hamilton over General Pinckney, is natural, and obvious. The latter is an officer of high military repu-

[96] Pickering had written (June 6): "There is one man who will gladly be *Your Second:* but who will not, I presume, because I think he ought not to be, the Second to any other military commander in the U. States. You too well know Colo. Hamilton's distinguished ability, energy and fidelity to apply my remark to any other man. But to ensure his appointment, I apprehend the weight of your opinion may be necessary. From the conversation that I and others have had with the President, there appears to us to be a disinclination to place Colo. Hamilton in what we think is his proper station, and that alone in which we suppose he will serve: the *Second* to You; and *Chief* in your absence. . . . If any considerations should prevent your taking the command of the army, I deceive myself extremely, if you will not think it should be conferred on Colo. Hamilton: And in this case, it may be equally important as in the former, that you should intimate your opinion to the President. Even Colo. Hamilton's political enemies, I believe would repose more confidence in him than in any other military character that can be placed in competition with him . . . the appointment of Colo. Hamilton, in the manner suggested, appears to me of such vast importance to the welfare of the country, that I am willing to risque any consequences of my frank and honest endeavours to secure it." Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

tation; fond of the Profession, spirited, active, and judicious; and much advanced in the estimation of the Public by his late Conduct as Minister and Envoy at Paris. With these pretensions, and being senior to Colo. Hamilton he would not, I am morally certain, accept a junr appointment. Disgust would follow, and its influence would spread where most to be deprecated, as his connections are numerous, powerful and more influential than any other in the three Southern States. Under this view of the Subject I think it would be impolitic, and might be dangerous to sow the seeds of discontent at so important a crisis. To this may be added, that impediments to the return of General Pinckney,[97] and causes unforeseen, might place Colo. Hamilton in the situation you wish to see him. Inspector General, with a command in the line, would, I hope and trust, satisfy him. You will readily perceive, that the difficulty in my mind, arises from thorough conviction that, if an Invasion is attempted it will commence South of Maryland and from the importance of so influential a character as Pinckney (if among us) being heartily engaged in repelling it. But not having the Laws at hand to resort to, or knowing precisely what General officers are authorised by them, I am speaking much at random, and request for that reason, that nothing which I have here said may be considered as definitive.

What arrangements the Secretary of War is empowered, by the President to make with me, I know not. In the letter of the former to me, he has not touched upon them. He is not yet arrived; but the bearer of this to the Post Office in Alexanda. carries up my Carriage in order to acommodate him down, this being the afternoon on which the Mail Stage is expected at that place. I regret however, that he should have left Philadelphia

[97] From France.

before a Letter which I had written to him, could have reached that place.

This letter went from here on friday last; before I knew, or had the most distant suspicion of the Presidents intention of nominating me, (without previous notice) to the trust he has;[98] but was written in consequence of a wish expressed in a letter from the Secretary to me that the Crisis might overcome my reluctance to appear again on the public theatre.

Upon this occasion, I thought it expedient before matters proceeded further to be candid and explicit, and accordingly wrote him my sentiments in detail, the substance of which was, that if an *actual Invasion* by a formidable force, or such demonstrations of the intention as could not be mistaken, I conceived it to be a duty wch. I owed to my Country and to my own reputation, to step forward with my best endeavours to repel it; however painful the measure might be to a person at my time of life, and under the circumstances I am; but for the satisfaction of my own mind, I should like to know, from the best evidence the case was susceptible of, that my Services as Commander in Chief would be prefered to those of a man of more Juvenile years and more in the prime and vigour of life. And that as neither ambition, Interest, or personal gratification of any sort could induce me to engage again in the turmoils and hazards of War. As I had every thing to risk and hardly any thing to gain (the vicissitudes of War being in the

[98] President Adams nominated Washington (July 2) to be Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of all the armies raised, or to be raised in the United States. On July 3 the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination. Washington's commission is dated July 4, 1798, and Secretary of War McHenry conveyed it in person, with a letter from the President, dated July 7, to Washington. On July 4, Senator James Lloyd wrote to Washington informing him that he had been appointed commander in chief; but there is no indication in the *Washington Papers* of the precise date on which this intelligence reached Mount Vernon. McHenry reached Alexandria, July 11. On that day Washington wrote to him: "My Carriage is sent to Alexandria to bring you, and any Companion you may have, to this place." A photostat of this original was kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure, of New York.

hands of the Supreme Director, where no controul is); and as the Army was about to be formed and every thing in a manner depending upon the arrangement and organization it could not be expected that I would take the Command of it without previously knowing who my Coadjutors were to be, and having the assistance of those in whom I could place confidence. I mentioned no names for at that time I knew nothing of my own Appointment, and thought the matter too much in embryo to go further, and to allow him, if a fit occasion occurred to let these, as my sentiments, be known to the President. I shall conclude with great esteem and regard dear Sir, &c.

## *To REVEREND JEREMY BELKNAP

Mount Vernon, July 12, 1798.

Revd. Sir: Agreeably to the promise contained in my last, I put your "Proposal for continuing and enlarging the Subscription for the American Biography &ca." into the hands of a friend of mine in Alexandria, for the purpose of obtaining Subscribers, and enclosed you will receive the result. With great esteem etc.

## *To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Vernon, July 13, 1798.

Dear Sir: I had the honour on the evening of the 11th. instant to receive from the hands of the Secretary of War, your favour of the 7th. announcing, that you had, with the advice and consent of the Senate appointed me "Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of all the Armies raised, or to be raised for the Service of the U. S."

I cannot express how greatly affected I am at this New proof of public confidence, and the highly flattering manner in which you have been pleased to make the communication; at the

sametime I must not conceal from you my earnest wish, that the choice had fallen on a man less declined in years, and better qualified to encounter the usual vicissitudes of War.

You know, Sir, what calculations I had made relative to the probable course of events, on my retiring from Office, and the determination I had consoled myself with, of closing the remnant of my days in my present peaceful abode; you will therefore be at no loss to conceive and appreciate, the Sensations I must have experienced, to bring my mind to any conclusion, that would pledge me, at so late a period of life, to leave Scenes I sincerely love, to enter upon the boundless field of public action, incessant trouble, and high responsibility.

It was not possible for me to remain ignorant of, or indifferent to, recent transactions. The conduct of the Directory of France towards our Country; their insidious hostility to its Government; their various practices to withdraw the affections of the People from it; the evident tendency of their Arts and those of their Agents to countenance and invigorate opposition; their disregard of solemn treaties and the laws of Nations; their war upon our defenceless Commerce; their treatment of our Minister of Peace, and their demands amounting to tribute, could not fail to excite in me corresponding sentiments with those my countrymen have so generally expressed in their affectionate Addresses to you. Believe me, Sir, no one can more cordially approve of the wise and prudent measures of your Administration. They ought to inspire universal confidence, and will no doubt, combined with the state of things, call from Congress such laws and means as will enable you to meet the full force and extent of the Crisis.

Satisfied therefore, that you have sincerely wished and endeavoured to avert war, and exhausted to the last drop, the cup of reconciliation, we can with pure hearts appeal to Heaven for the justice of our cause, and may confidently trust the final

result to that kind Providence who has heretofore, and so often, signally favoured the People of these United States.

Thinking in this manner, and feeling how incumbent it is upon every person, of every description, to contribute at all times to his Countrys welfare, and especially in a moment like the present, when every thing we hold dear and Sacred it so seriously threatned, I have finally determined to accept the Commission of Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States, with the reserve only, that I shall not be called into the field until the Army is in a situation to require my presence, or it becomes indispensable by the urgency of circumstances.

In making this reservation, I beg it to be understood that I do not mean to withhold any assistance to arrange and organize the Army, which you may think I can afford. I take the liberty also to mention, that I must decline having my acceptance considered as drawing after it any immediate charge upon the Public, or that I can receive any emoluments annexed to the appointment, before entering into a Situation to incur expence.[99]

The Secretary of War being anxious to return, to the seat of Government, I have detained him no longer[1] than was necessary to a full communication upon the several points he had in charge. With very great respect and consideration I had the honor etc.

## *To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, July 14, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 8th instant, was presented to me by the Secretary of War on the 11th., and I have consented

[99] In a Toner transcript of Washington's "Cash Account," in the *Washington Papers*, under date of Dec. 7, 1798, is the following: "To two months pay Rations and forage recd from the public by Warrant from the Secty of War $1039 5/100."

[1] McHenry left Mount Vernon for Philadelphia, July 14.

to embark once more on a boundless field of responsibility and trouble, with two reservations. first, that the principal Officers in the line, and of the Staff, shall be such as I can place confidence in; and, that I shall not be called into the field until the Army is in a situation to require my presence, or it becomes indispensable by the urgency of circumstances. Contributing in the mean while, every thing in my power to its efficient organization, but nothing to the public expence until I am in a situation to incur expence myself.

It will be needless after giving you this information, and having indelibly engraved on my mind the assurance contained in your letter of the 2d of June, to add, that I rely upon you as a Coadjutor, and assistant in the turmoils I have consented to encounter.

I have communicated very fully with the Secretary of War on the several matters contained in the Powers vested in him by the President, who, as far as it appears by them, is well disposed to accommodate; But I must confess that, besides nominating me to the Command of the Armies without any previous consultation or notice, the whole of that business seems to me to stand upon such ground, as may render the Secretarys journey, and our consultation, of no avail.

Congress, it is said, would rise this week. What then *has* been done, or *can* the President do, with respect to appointments under that Bill, if it has been enacted? Be his inclinations what they may, unless a Law *could,* and *has* Passed, enabling him, in the recess of the Senate, to make appointments, conformably thereto, the nominations must have been made; and the business *done here,* with the Secretary, is rendered nugatory.

By the pending Bill, if it passes to a Law, two Major Generals, and an Inspector Genl. with the Rank of Majr. General, and three Brigadiers are to be appointed. Presuming on its passing,

I have given the following as my sentiments respecting the following characters, fit, and proper to be employed; in which the Secretary concurs.

| | |
|---|---|
| Alexr. Hamilton, Inspector. | |
| Chas. C. Pinckney, | Majr. |
| Henry Knox, or if either of the last mend. refuses, | Genls. |
| Henry Lee, of Virginia: | |
| Henry Lee (if not Majr. Genl.) | |
| John Brooks, Massachusetts | Brigadiers |
| Willm. S. Smith, N: York, or | |
| John E. Howard, Maryld. | |
| Either Edward Hand, Pennsa. | |
| Jonathan Dayton, Jr. N. Jer | Adjt. Genl. |
| Willm S. Smith to be; | |
| Edwd Carrington, Qr. Mr. Genl. | |
| James Craik, Directr of Hosl | |

And I have enumerated the most prominent characters that have occurred to my mind, from whom to select field officers for the Regiments of Infantry, and that of Cavalry, which are proposed to be raised.

And now, my dear Sir, with that candour which you always have, and I trust ever will experience from me, I shall express to you a difficulty which has arisen in my mind relative to seniority between you and Genl. Pinckney; for with respect to my friend General Knox, whom I love and esteem I have ranked him below you both. That you may know from whence this difficulty proceeds, it is proper I should observe, and give it as my decided opinion that if the French should be so mad as to Invade this Country in expectation of making a serious impression, that their operations will commence in the States South of Maryland. 1. because they are the weakest. 2. because they will expect, from the tenor of the debates in Congress to find

more friends there. 3. because there cannot be a doubt of their arming the Negros against us. and 4. because they would be more contiguous to their Islands, and to Louisiana and the Floridas, if they can obtain possession of them and that this will be the case if they are able to accomplish it, is, to my mind a matter that admits of no doubt.

If these premises are just, the inference is obvious, that the services and influence of General Pinckney in the Southern States would be of the highest, and most interesting importance. Will he serve then, under one whom he will consider a junr Officer? and what would be the consequence if he should refuse, and his numerous, and powerful connections and acquaintances in those parts, get disgusted? You have no doubt heard that his Military reputation stands high in the Southern States; that he is viewed as a brave, intelligent and enterprising Officer; and, if report be true, that no officer in the late American Army made Tactics, and the art of War so much his Study. To this account of him, may be added, that his character has received much celebrity by his conduct as Minister and Envoy at Paris.

Under this view of the subject, my wish to put you first, and my fear of loosing him, are not a little embarrassing. But why? for after all it rests with the President to use his pleasure. I shall only add therefore, that as the welfare of the Country is the object, I persuade myself we all have in view, I shall sanguinely hope that, smaller matters will yield to measures which have a tendency to promote it. I wish devoutly that either of you, or any fit character, had been nominated in my place; for no one *can* make a greater sacrifice, at least of inclination, than will Your ever Affectionate, &c.[2]

[2] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

## *PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT OF GENERAL AND OTHER OFFICERS[3]

Mount Vernon, July 14, 1798.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New Hampshire | None recollected at present | |
| Massachusetts | David Cobb | very good |
| | Henry Jackson | |
| | Leml. Trescott | good |
| | Caleb Gibbs | good |
| | Andrew Peters | |
| | Hodijah Baylis | |
| Rhode Island | Jerh. Olney | very good |
| | Henry Sherburn | good |
| | Willm. Blodget | |
| | Jno. S. Dexter | good |
| | Willm Peck | Do. |
| Connecticut | Philp. P. Bradley | good |
| | Thos. Grosvenor | |
| | Elisha Sheldon | |
| | Ebenezr. Huntington | good |
| | Benjn: Talmadge | very good |
| New York | Ebenezr. Stevens | good Exec. Offr |
| | Nichs. Fish | very good |
| | Mathw. Clarkson | Do. |
| | [William] North | |
| | Benjn. Walker | good |
| New Jersey | Jno. Cummings | |
| | Anthy. W. White | |
| | Josh. Bloomfield | |
| | Aaron Ogden | very good |

[3] Washington heads this: "The following, as far as my recollection serves, are among the most intelligent and active Officers of the late American Army."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pennsylvania | Francs. Johnson | |
| | Francs. Mentges | |
| | Thos. Robinson | |
| | Willm. McPherson[4] | very good |
| | Willm. Alexander | good |
| | Thos. Ll. Moore | |
| | Willm. Jackson | |
| Delaware | None at present recollected. | |
| Maryland | Josias C. Hall | |
| | Nathl. Ramsay | |
| | Nichs. Rogers | |
| | Leven Winder | |
| | Jno. Eccleston | |
| | Acquila Giles | now N. York |
| Virginia | William Heth | very good |
| | Willm. Darke | rough |
| | Burges Ball | |
| | Josh. Eggleston | |
| | Benjn: Temple | |
| | Richd C. Anderson | |
| | James Wood | Governor |
| | Jonathan Clark | |
| North Carolina | None recollected | |
| South Carolina | Willm. Washington | very good |
| | Edwd. Rutledge | Do |
| | Thos. Pinckney | Do |
| Georgia | None recollected | |

There may be among the foregoing some of bad political principles. and others whose true characters I have mistaken and the whole of them requiring to be investigated.[5]

[4] Macpherson.
[5] This list was submitted to the Secretary of War.

## ANSWERS TO QUERIES OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

[Mount Vernon] July 14, 1798.

1st. If the bill pending in Congress to augment the present force of the United States should pass into a law, it becomes the duty of the President to carry that law into execution promptly; of course all such officers as are necessary for the purpose of recruiting, Inspecting the Recruits, superintending their discipline &ca. at the several places of Rendezvous must be appointed without delay. The necessity of appointing the *higher* Grades is not so urgent; but, in my opinion the sooner they are also fixed on, and their acceptance known, the better. Not however to be called out, nor to receive pay and emoluments of Office until their services are required, which circumstances must decide.

2d. It would be inexpedient, I conceive, to *appoint,* but very proper to *fix* upon the General and Field Officers (Colonels Commandant at least) for the Provisional Army, without much delay; and know whether they would accept the appointments that are announced to them. To proceed further might excite alarm and give rise to remarks which would be more than a counterpoise to the facility intended to be answered by it.

3d. If two things could be combined, and the evidence thereof pretty well ascertained, the measure would certainly be advantageous. These are, that the *Field Officers* should be composed of *proper and fit men,* and acceptable to the Companies. But if both cannot be attained, the first is most important and ought to be preferred.[6] [N.Y.P.L.]

[6] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

The queries submitted by McHenry, which are sufficiently indicated by Washington's answers, are also in Lear's writing in the New York Public Library. A photostat

## *To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: In discharge of Rent, for some land I have in Charles County, State of Maryland I have received the Tobacco, noted below.

If it will sell in George Town for its worth, I would thank you to dispose of it along with that last sent you, on the best terms you can, and it will much oblige Dear Sir Your etc.

| Mark. | Do. | Gross | Tare | Nett | date | Warehouse |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GW | 117. | 1131. | 116. | 1015. | April 25th | Nanjemoy |
| Do | 156. | 1120. | 100 | 1020 | March 25 | Ditto |
| | | | Total. — | 2035 | | |

## *To ARCHIBALD McCLEAN

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1798.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 9th in reply to the answer I gave you, relative to the proposed exchange of property in Alexandria, for my small tract of Land on the Ohio, generally known and distinguished by the round bottom.

You undoubtedly, have a right to fix your *own* price, upon your *own* property. but to prevent trouble, I beg leave to inform you, in decisive terms, that I will allow no more than what disinterested men (each of us chusing one, and a third, in case of disagreement, by those two) shall say it is worth.

Doctr. Craik has forgot the situation of my land. It is on the hither side of the Ohio, about 15 Miles from Wheeling and if I mistake not, in the same County. It is, without question (and

---

of them is also in the Library of Congress. A copy of the queries and Washington's answer was hastily made by McHenry (July 14), and left with Washington. It is in the *Washington Papers.*

allowed to be) the most valuable tract for its size in that Country and it is a matter of perfect indifference to me, whether I dispose of it for ten dollars an Acre, or not, two, or more years ago I refused eight dollars an acre and at this moment I have letters (unanswered on my Table) from four persons in pursuit of the tracts, some to buy, and others to Lease it.

That land within eight miles of Pittsburgh is to be bought for 20/. an Acre, I have no doubt; and if you had said for *half* that sum, it would have met with my entire belief; and yet the bargain might have been a hard one. I sold land 40 miles from it to Colo. Shreve for about 50/. an acre, and what followed? Why he kept as much as *he wanted* and sold the residue for upwards of four pounds an Acre, almost in the same breath. The value of land is estimated for the quality and local advantages; not by the cost. I am etc.

PS. Mr. Anderson my Manager, will look at your property in Alexa. and report any thing that you are disposed to say to—G. W.

## *To DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 6th, enclosing notes for two hogsheads of Tobo. paid you by Mr. Dunnington on a/c of Rent due me, has been received; and a receipt given to him for the same.

For your continued trouble in this business, I thank you; and although I am in real want of the amount of the Bond he gave, payable last January; yet, if he will exert himself to discharge it in the course of the year I shall [not object to?] waiting that time to [enter] a suit for the recovery of it as you conceive he means fair; otherwise it would be only gaining on his, and loosing time on my part.

If you should have occasion to visit the Neighbourhood where my land lyes, I would thank you to visit, and give me your opinion of the adequacy of the Rent for the present rent is altogether of Mr. Dunningtons own fixing. If you should not have any call into those parts, it is yet possible that you might obtain this information from others who know it well; and the relation it bears to the Rent of other Tenements of similar size and quality of Soil thereabouts and at what price it would sell by the Acre giving a credit, payable in Installments, with interest. With esteem etc.[7]

## *To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, July 15,[8] 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 6th inst. has been duly received, but it came to hand when I was so much engaged, as not to be able to give it an earlier answer.

With respect to the land which Mr. Short was authorised to purchase for me, I have nothing to add; save a wish that he would get it as much *under* the price limited, as he can; for I have been disappointed in the receipt of money where I thought *no* disappointment *could* have happened. But will, notwithstanding, honour any draught of Mr. Short's that is made conformably to my former letter.

As the business committeed to Mr. Field, went no further (if I recollect rightly) than to make preparatory enquiries, nothing further need be said on that head, until his report is received.

But from your Acct. of Colonel Marshall's inactivity, corroborated by his silence, it seems indispensible that the situation

[7] The words in brackets are inserted as probable readings, as Washington inadvertently omitted some.

[8] The "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers* dates this July 16.

of my lands on Rough Creek should be looked into without delay; and if Mr. Short would be so obliging as to do this, and would pay, or give me advice of what taxes are due upon those lands, it would intitle him to my best thanks; which should be rendered with a re-fund of any expence he may incur in the business the moment it is made known to me.

The family here, are much as usual, and unite with me in best regards for you, Mrs. Spotswood and all with you. With very great esteem I remain.

PS. I have written a Letter to Mr. Short,[9] and placed it under cover with this, for you to read, seal, and deliver, or to forward, as the case may be.

## *To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: The crisis, in the opinion of Congress, as appears by their Acts this Session; and I believe in the opinion of every man who is not blinded by partiality, or led away by worse motives, is, that we should be prepared to meet the Foe who threatens us, in Force; and with Spirit to repel the injustice, usurpation, and intoxicated ambition which France has extended to us, with so insolent, and remorseless a hand.

Little did I believe, when I retired to the shades of private life, that any event would cast up, *in my day,* that could induce me to quit them. But a principle which I conceive ought to have the *first* place in the breast of every lover of his Country, have induced me to yield to the call of mine, and to the wishes of my friends, in accepting the appointment wch. you may have seen announced in the Gazettes. I have done it however, with two reservations. The one, that I shall not be called

[9] See Washington's letter to Peyton Short, July 16, 1798, *post.*

into the field until the Army is in a situation to require my presence (receiving no pay or emoluments during that time) or, it becomes indispensible by the urgency of Circumstances; the other, that the General, and Principal staff Officers shall be composed of characters in whom I can place confidence.

The Secretary of War, who was sent by the President to make corresponding arrangements, left this place yesterday in the Afternoon, and if he should arrive in Philadelphia *before* the final adjournment of the Senate, I presume the nominations will be agreed to. Among these, I have named you Quarter Master General. In taking this liberty, I followed the precedent that was set me; but on better ground I think, because there was *not time* sufficient to consult you under apprehension of the Senate's rising; when the urgency was not so pressing as it respected me. And because I would fain hope that, the same principle which has influenced me to come forward, at the expence of that ease and happiness which I had promised myself, for the remainder of my life, will prevail on others, who have it much in their power to render important services to the public, to do so likewise. If the French should attempt an Invasion in Force, their operations will, I have *no doubt,* commence in some State South of Maryland. This, besides your general fitness for that important Office, would make your Services peculiarly useful, as no one has a more intimate knowledge of the resources of the Southern States, or knows better how to draw them forth. I cannot but hope that the public voice, expressed with so much unanimity and decision, with the preparations that are making, will undeceive the French Directory; and, at least, confine their operations to the Ocean, with trifling and unimportant predatory depredations on the Sea board. But this is not to be depended upon; especially if Peace takes place between them and Great Britain; and more so

still, if they should be possessed of Louisiana and the Floridas. For if Peace takes place in Europe, the Directory must find employment for the Troops, or the Troops will find employment for the Directory. Until the result of my arrangement with the Secretary of War, is communicated from Philadelphia, it will be as well to say nothing, publicly, on this subject; but your favourable opinion of what is intended for yourself, in a letter to me, would be very acceptable to Dear Sir Your etc.

## *To WILLIAM HICKMAN[10]

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1798.

Sir: If, unfortunately, this Country should be engaged in hostilities soon, the probability is, that it will be with France. In which case I do not suppose that Mr. Frignet would incline to take an active part against his own Country. Or that it would be the policy of this to employ him. I am etc.[11]

[N.Y.P.L.]

## To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 22d Ulto. from Philadelphia, came duly to hand, and I regretted exceedingly that it would not be in my power to see you in your way to Richmond. I hope your return will give perfect restoration of health to Mrs. Marshall, and that you found all the rest of your family and connections well.

I was glad to find that the *only* letter I wrote to you, while you were in France, had got to your hands. I should at least have acknowledged the receipt of the several letters you were

[10] Of Alexandria, Va.

[11] Hickman's letter of July 12, recommending Frignet, is in the *Washington Papers*.

so good as to favour me with, after your arrival at Paris, but judging from the situation in wch. you were placed, by the Directory of that Country, that they would not find you there, I declined it on that account; and now offer you my sincere congratulations on your safe return to your own Country, family and friends, among whom I pray you to class him who is with very sincere esteem and regard etc.[12]

## *To HENRY HILL

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your very polite, friendly and obliging letter of the 4th instant, has been duly presented to me; and received as it ought, my grateful thanks for those flattering sentiments your partiality, more than my deserts, have led you to express for me.

I have again consented, if occasion should require it; to quit the calm and pleasing shades of retirement, in which I fondly hoped the remnant of a life (from 19 years of age) spent, one way or another, in the Service of my Country, would be undisturbed, to enter . . .[13] not calculated . . . the boundless field of responsibility and trouble; in which, if I prove an unprofitable labourer, it must be remembered that the *Call* is my inducement to *obey*, and that those who . . . for the error because I must be received as I am, not as I would be, for you are sensible, my friend, however desirous *we* may be of it that we cannot strike off 40 years of our ages.

The spirit, which has accompanied the unequivocal expression of the sense of the *People* of the United States, whom the Directory of France had placed in opposition to the Govern-

[12] From a typed copy of the original in the Chapin Library, Williamstown, Mass.
[13] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [ . . . ] are illegible.

ment of their choice, and looked to for support with the preparatory measures gone into by Congress; will convince them I trust, that they have proceeded upon false estimates, that they have been deceived by misrepresentation; and that it is time to pause. If, notwithstanding, there can be no limit to their injustice and rapacious conduct; If intoxicated with success their lawless ambition cannot be restrained by any principle of moral rectitude; I shall hold myself ready to meet them in the field of contest; but till then, or until circumstances make it indispensible for me to come out, I hope to be endulged in sitting quietly under my Vine and Fig tree.

I have not neglected to present you in the way requested, to Mrs. Washington ... from them to offer you, in return their complimts. and best wishes, to which permit me to [P. S.] The letter ... it is unnecessary to say anything on that head ... It is necessary to inform you that from the combination of public and private concerns I have been very much hurried for some days past. [N. Y. P. L.]

## *To RAWLEIGH COLSTON

Mount Vernon, July 16, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 1st. of last month got safe to my hands, but long, very long after its date.

It would give me great concern if any act of mine should produce difficulty, or loss, to any of the purchasers of Colo. George Mercers land, sold under the Power of Attorney given to me, and others, for that purpose. But as this business has been taken out of my hands by a Decree of the High Court of Chancery, of this State; after the Papers have passed from me, and without recollecting (at this time) why a Deed did not pass in due form and time, or what, what the circumstance of the case is *now;* to render my Agency, after an absolute

relinquishment of it, conveys to my mind an odd appearance. Besides, the Conveyances which were made at the Sale, had a number of parties to them; to all of whose signatures there were Witnesses. Not less than five or six of these parties (to my knowledge) are dead; and the witnesses for the most part dead also, or dispersed; and, supposing the case otherwise, of what avail would their evidence be to Deeds of 25 years standing, which ought to have been recorded within eight months?

The farthest I have ever gone, since relinquishing the trust, was where the *old Deed* has, by neglect of the person to whom it was granted, been suffered to exceed the time, required by Law for its record, to certify before fresh witnesses on the back of it, that it was duly executed *at the time* and *in the manner* therein expressed. And this I am ready to do in your case, if the case will admit of it; but to go into an *entire* new Conveyance under the circumstances I have mentioned, I should be very unwilling; unless I was well advised of the necessity and propriety of the measure by a professional and well informed character; who would consider, *thoroughly,* the case in all its relations, and under all its circumstances; to encounter the expence of which, I am not disposed; having already been saddled with a good deal on account of my Agency in that business, without ever receiving, or charging a copper for the trouble or expence for my several trips to Bullrun, Shannandoah, &ca; and paying Clerks and Sheriff notes, for many of the Bonds put in suit by Colo. Jno. F. Mercer for as much as they were instituted in my name, and being blended with others, could not well be separated or a farthing for Commission.

If Genl. Marshall, as the mutual friend of us both, would consider the case as above, with my difficulties, express in this letter, I dare say before hand, but I should find no scruple in carrying what he would advise, into effect. I am etc.

## *To HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, July 16, 1798.

My dear Sir: Little did I imagine when I retired from the theatre of public life, that it was probable, or even possible, that any event would arise *in my day,* that could induce me to entertain, *for a moment,* an idea of relinquishing the tranquil walks, and refreshing shades, with which I am surrounded. But it is in vain, I perceive, to look for ease and happiness in a world of troubles.

The call of my Country, and the urgency of my friends to comply with it, have produced a letter from me to the President of the United States, which, probably, will be given to the public; but if it should not, the principal feature thereof, is, that with the reservation of not being called into the Field until the Army is in a situation to require my presence, or it becomes indispensable by the urgency of circumstances, that I will accept the Commission with which the Secretary of War came charged. Desiring, however, that it might be understood, that my Coadjutors, in the first grades, and principal staff of the Army, must be men in whom I could place entire confidence; for that, it was not to be expected, at my time of life, that I would forsake the ease and comforts which are essential in old age; encounter the toils and vicissitudes of War, with all its concomitants, and jeopardize the reputation which the partiality of the World has been pleased to bestow on me (when the hazard of diminishing, is at least equal to the prospect of increasing it,) without securing such assistance as would enable me to go with confidence into such a field of responsibility.

After this exordium, it is almost unnecessary to add, that I have placed you among those characters on whom I wish to

lean, for support. But my dear Sir, as you always have found, and trust ever will find, candour a prominent trait of my character, I must add, that causes, which would exceed the limits of an ordinary letter to explain, are in the way of such an arrangement as might render your situation perfectly agreeable; but I fondly hope that, the difficulty will not be insurmountable, in your decision.

For the present, and augmented force, three Major Generals, and four Brigadiers are allowed by the Act establishing the latter; and in a consultation with the Secretary of War, the characters proposed for the former are Colo. Hamilton, Genl. Chas. Cotesworth Pinckney and yourself. The first of these, in the public estimation, as declared to me, is designated to be second in command; with some fears, I confess, of the consequences; although I must acknowledge at the sametime that I know not where a more competent choice could be made. General Pinckney's character as an active, spirited and intelligent Officer you are acquainted with, and know that it stands very high in the Southern Hemisphere; it being understood *there,* that he made Tactics as much, if not more his study, than any Officer in the American army during the last War. His character in other respects in that quarter before his late Embassy, was also high; and throughout the Union it has acquired celebrity by his conduct as Minister and Envoy. His connexions are numerous; their influence extensive; but most of all, with me, when to these considerations I add, as my *decided* opinion (for reasons unnecessary to enumerate) that if the French intend an Invasion of this Country *in force,* their operations will commence South of Maryland; and probably of Virginia; you will see at once the importance of embarking this Gentleman and all his connexions *heartily* in the active scenes that would follow, instead of damping their ardour, and thereby giving more

activity to the leaven that is working in others, where unity of sentiment would be most desirable.

Viewing things in this light, I would fain hope, as we are forming an Army *A New,* which Army, if needful *at all,* is to fight for every thing that ought to be dear and sacred to freemen, that former rank will be forgot; and among the fit and chosen characters, the only contention will be, who shall be foremost in zeal at this crisis, to serve his Country, in whatever situation circumstances may place him. Most of those, who are best qualified to oppose the enemy, will have sacrifices of ease, Interest, or Inclination to make; but what are these, when put in competition with the loss of our Independence or the Subjugation of our Government? both of which are evidently struck at, by an intoxicated, ambitious, and domineering Foe.

The arrangement made with the Secretary of War is on a separate Sheet of paper,[14] and meant for your perusal *only,* until the decision of the President relative to it, is announced.

With that esteem and regard which you know I feel for you, I remain your sincere friend and Affectionate Servant.

P. S. From the best recollection I have of them, the Secretary of War is furnished with a list of Field and other Officers of the late Army of most celebrity, from whence to draw the Field Officers for the Corps to be raised. If you would afford your aid also, it wd be obliging.[15]

---

[14] A press copy of the list is incorporated in the letter to Alexander Hamilton, July 14, 1798, *q. v.*

[15] The mutilated original is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Knox answered (July 29): "Yesterday I received your favor of the 16th instant, which I opened with all the delightful sensations of affection which I always before experienced upon the receipt of your letters. But I found on its perusal, a striking instance of that vicissitude of human affairs and friendships, which you so justly describe. I read it with astonishment, which however subsided in the reflection, that few men well know themselves, and therefore that for more than twenty years, I must have been acting under a perfect delusion. Conscious myself of entertaining for you a sincere, active, and invariable friendship, I easily believed it was reciprocal. Nay more, I flattered myself with your esteem and respect in a military point of view.

## *To JAMES MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, July 16, 1798.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 12th. Instant, and thank you for your offer of becoming one of my Aids-de-Camp.

I have consented to accept the appointment to which my Country has been pleased to call me, with the reservation not to quit my private walks until the Army is in a situation to

---

But I find that others, greatly my juniors in rank, have been, upon a scale of comparison, preferred before me. Of this perhaps the World may also concur with you, that I have no just reason to complain. But every intelligent and just principle of society required, either that I should have been previously consulted on an arrangement in which my feelings and happiness have been so much wounded; or that I should not have been dragged forth to public view at all, to make the comparison so conspiciously odious.

"I revere the Cause of my Country far beyond all my powers of description. I am charmed with its honorable and dignified proceedings relatively to foreign nations, under the former, and present administration, of the supreme Executive. And I shall be proud of an honorable opportunity of sealing the truth of these opinions with my blood. It will be to me a malignant shaft of Fate indeed if I am to be excluded from active service, by a constant sense of public insult and injury.

"You are pleased to say that 'the first of these (meaning Genl Hamilton) in public estimation' *as declared to me,* is designated to be second in Command; with some fears I confess of the consequences; although I must acknowledge at the same time that I know not where a more competent choice could be made.

"It would be absurd in me to complain of an arrangement already made with any view to a change. But I cannot refrain from observing that the question may be asked, how this public estimation was manifested? In virginia and the southern states? In new England, and the middle States? If so, I can only say that such estimation was not publickly manifested, and is unknown to me. I have understood that when the list was presented to the Senate, some members from a mere sense of justice, were desirous that the seniority I held the last War should be considered, but they were silenced by the observation, that the list was yours, and therefore it could not be altered. To you, *it was declared* to be the public estimation. The conclusion seems to be authorised, if the statement of the senate be true, (for which however I cannot at present pledge myself) that there has been a species of management in My [*sic*] affars [*sic*] of which you are not apprised.

"I say nothing relatively to Mr Pinckney's rank. He will judge for himself. If there be an immediate pressure of an Invasion in the southern States, he may submit for a time to the arrangement. But if no such pressure should exist I have mistaken his character greatly if he will accept.

"In this case it would appear that Messrs Hamilton and Lee would be the second and third General officers. New England which must furnish the Majority of the Army if one shall be raised, will be without a Major General or have the junior One. Whether they will possess such a sense of inferiority as to bear such astate [*sic*] of

require my presence, or it becomes indispensible by the urgency of circumstances.

Until one, or the other of these periods shall have arrived, I shall make no actual appointment of my Aids; and as circumstances, and a variety of considerations are required in regulating my choice, I must remain perfectly free and uningaged 'till then unless it should otherwise happen in a public character.

Intoxicated, and lost as the French seem to be to every principle of Justice, I yet hope that they will pause before they

things patiently, or whether their zeal and confidence will thereby be excited Time will discover. . . .

"If such a train of events should occur and events infinitely less probable have occured in thick succession for the last seven years, all the military energy of America will be required. Then an opportunity may be afforded in which a better value may be set upon my services than at present, and I may be permitted to exert myself unshackled by any degradation of character.

"I have received no other notification of an appointment than what the Newspapers announce. When it shall please the secretary of War to give me the information, I shall endevor [*sic*] to make him a suitable answer. At present I do not perceive how it can possibly be to any other purport, than in the Negative, unless the relative rank of the late War, should govern according to the established and invariable usuage of the former War. The present is suggested to be a new arrangement, and totally irrelative to the former Army. The principles of rank were then established by resolves of Congress, as a part of the military law. I am uninformed of any act of the present government which has repealed the former laws upon the subject of rank. This point however may hereafter be more fully investigated.

"In whatever situation I shall be, I shall always remember with pleasure and gratitude the friendship and confidence with which you have heretofore honored me." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney wrote to the Secretary of War (October 31): "I am sorry that Genl Knox has declined his appointment . . . it was intimated to me, that it had been doubted whether I would accept . . . as Genl. Hamilton who was of inferior rank to me in the last war, was ranked before me in the new arrangement. I declared then, and I still declare, that it was with the greatest pleasure, I saw his name at the head of the list of the Major Generals, and applauded the discernment which had placed him there. . . . I therefore without any hesitation immediately sent him word . . . that I rejoiced at his appointment and would with pleasure serve under him. . . . As I consider'd Genl. Knox to be a very valuable Officer, tho' I do not estimate his talents in a degree equal to those of Genl. Hamilton . . . rather than the feelings of Genl. Knox should be hurt at my being ranked before him, he might take my place in the arrangement, and I desired him [Major Rutledge] when he wrote to the General, to intimate this to him. Genl. Knox's *absolute refusal* to serve because, I am placed before him, would render the same offer from me, *now*, improper. I do not therefore renew it. But if the authority which appointed me to the rank of Second Major General in the Army, will review the arrangement, and place Genl. Knox before me, I will neither quit the service, nor be dissatisfied." A contemporary copy, by Pinckney, of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

proceed further. That they have been misled, and have made calculations on false ground, the unequivocal declarations of the People (on whose support their plan has been formed) to support Independence, and the Government of their Country *at every hazard* sufficiently evince. When to this happy circumstance, the preparation which are making to receive them is added, and fully made known to them; I can hardly conceive (although I think them capable of *any thing* that is unjust and dishonourable) that they will attempt a serious Invasion of this Country. At the sametime the highest possible obligation rests upon It. to be prepared for the event, as the most effective means to avert the evil. With esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

## *To PEYTON SHORT[16]

Mount Vernon, July 16, 1798.

Sir: General Spotswood having informed me of the trouble he was about to give you on my account, I have only to hope that it may not be great, at the same time that I assure you, that whatever is done under that Power and conformably thereto, shall be strictly complied with on my part.

One trouble Sir, frequently draws on another. It is some years since I requested my old acquaintance and friend, Colo. Marshall, to see that the Lands I hold on Rough Creek, in two tracts, of three and two thousand Acres, were not involved in any difficulty on acct. of the non-payment of Taxes. It is now sometime since he has drawn on one for the amount; to what cause owing I am unable to say. It is incumbent however on me to enquire, as I always have been willing, and still am ready, to pay whatever is due on them.

[16] Then in Kentucky.

Will you permit me, my good Sir, to request the favour of you to make enquiry into this matter; and inform me of the result. And if time and the circumstances of the case, will not await a remittance from hence; that some means may be devised to pay the money there, which shall be returned with thanks and interest, so soon as it is made known to Sir Your etc.

## *To WILLIAM HETH

Mount Vernon, July 18, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 13th. Instant, with its enclosures, came duly to hand; for your kindness in sending which, I thank you; but I thank you more for the offer of becoming one of my Aids, if I should again embark on a Sea of troubles and responsibility, and provided a Rank proportioned to your formed Grade and ...[17] could be insured to you. This, my good Sir, you would have to decide on yourself, by recurring to the Law, which fixes the Rank of the Aids of the Commander in Chief; and altho' I shall keep you constantly in mind, I do not care to be under any promises; for if I *should* . . . many considns. . . . and until that period arrives.

I have consented to accept the Appointment to which my Country has called me, with a reservation not to quit my private walks until the Army is in a Situation to require my presence (receiving no Pay or emoluments during that time) or, it becomes indispensible by the Urgency of circumstances.

Intoxicated with Power . . . on ambition, and lost, as the Directory of France seems to be, to every principle of Justice and propriety; I yet hope, that they will pause before they take the last leap. That they have miscalated [*sic*] on the sense of the *People* of this Country, is evident from the unequivocal

[17] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [ . . . ] are illegible.

declarations of the latter, in all parts of the Country, to maintain their Independence, and support their Government, *at every hazard,* and that they have been led into this error by characters among us; for purposes best known to themselves, is, to my mind, as clear as a problem in Euclid, Will they then, undeceived as they must be, in their information and estimates, and prepared as this Country will be to meet them, attempt an Invasion, in *Force?* I think not, while Great Britain and they are at War. If Peace should take place in Europe, and more especially if they should be possessed of Louisiana and the Floridas, which Heaven avert! I think, because I believe them capable of undertaking any thing that the worst may be expect [*sic*]; for if the Directory does not find money, and employment for the Army, the Army will most assuredly find persons to supply the places of the present Directory.

I think with you, that all secret enemies to the peace and happiness of this Country should be unmasked, for it is better to meet *two* enemies in the *open* field of contest than *one* coward [*sic*] behind the curtain. Many matters are pressing upon me, and I am very much occupied, as this scrawl but too clearly indicates, not less on that account, and with thanks for your kind wishes and favourable able Sentiments relatively to me. I remain etc.[18]

## To OLIVER EVANS

Mount Vernon, July 20, 1798.

Sir: Finding more difficulty than I apprehended in getting a Miller from the Northward, I have again engaged my pres-

[18] In the Huntington Library is an undated manuscript, in the writing of Washington, as follows: "Confidential Colo. Willm. Heth has offered himself to me as an Aid. As an Officer I believe he was good. But how does he stand in public estimation as a man of abilities, respectability, and temper? Is he sober, and esteemed prudent? Your answers to these queries will rest with me."

ent one, on the terms he was before, rather than delay the matter any longer. I make this communication to prevent further enquiries on your part, on my behalf; and that I may thank you for the trouble you have taken in this affair to procure one for me. I am etc.[19]

## *To JUDITH SARGENT STEVENS MURRAY

Mount Vernon, July 20, 1798.

Madam: I have been duly honoured with the receipt of your obliging favour of the 15th Ulto,[20] and should have presented you with my acknowledgment of it sooner, but for the interesting event (to me) which has lately occurred, and has occupied all my time and attention.

For the highly flattering sentiments with which your letter is replete, and for the good wishes you are pleased to bestow on me, I render you all my gratitude, and reciprocate them with great cordiality, in doing which I am joined by Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis. I have the honour etc.

## *To ALICE DELANCEY IZARD[21]

Mount Vernon, July 20, 1798.

Madam: By the last Post, I had the honor to receive your favour of the 25th. Ulto from Charleston; and pray you to be persuaded that, no one could hear of the improving state of Mr. Izards health, and prospect of his recovery with more pleasure because few, if any of his acquaintances, regretted the loss of the first more than I did. On the prospect of the latter I

[19] From the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress. The original was said to be (1892) in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
[20] In the *Washington Papers*.
[21] Mrs. Ralph Izard.

sincerely congratulate you, as I do on the safe return of your Son; who, if circumstances had permitted I should have seen with pleasure at this place, on his way to Carolina.

If I rightly understand the grd. of Mr. Izards[22] complaint, I persuade myself that both you and he, upon a reconsideration of the case, and the consequences of a contrary principle in the decisions of the Executive thereon, will readily perceive that no injustice has been done him.

Usage, and the Policy of a State in the establishment of *new* Corps, and Independent of and unacquainted with the old. Officers and privates come in together, the former as a mean to obtain the latter, and rarely is otherwise, except to reward Meritorious Officers, distinguished for signal Services who cannot be advanced in their own Corps out of the usual rotine of promotion; but this, when done is considered as a favour, not claimed as a right; and sometimes proves the reverse, by throwing them out of Service altogether, their Corps being the first for disbandment.

But there is another, and more interesting point, in which to view this subject, and proves beyond contradiction, the inadmissibility of Mr. Izard's claim.

In Military, more so perhaps than in other matters, Principles must be established and adhered to, or discontents wd. be endless, and disorder great. What is right in *one case,* must be right in *every case,* similarly circumstanced. Upon the principle then that Mr. Izard complains, viz: that it was injurious to make Captains of those who had never served, in the new Corps, while there were Officers of inferior grades in the old, let me ask what would be the operation of it in the Army about to be raised, for it applys as forceably to the Infantry, as to the Artillery?

[22] George Izard.

At present, we have four regiments of Infantry in existence. twelve are voted to be *immediately* raised, and if circumstances would require the Provisional Army, nearly double that number will be wanted in addition. Would it not be a matter of surprize then, and absolutely defeat the measures of Government if no New officers were to be appointed in this Army until these of the four Regiments were first provided for? Certain I am, Madam, that your good sense would be the first to cry yes. The case of Mr. Izard is exactly similar, although the evil would not be so extensive.

My wishes that Congress would establish a Military Academy and Corps of Engineers have often been communicated to that Body, and it is to be regretted that the want of many useful Institutions are not seen until they are felt.

Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis are thankful for your kind remembrance of them and unite with me in every good wish for Mr. Izard, yourself and family, and with the highest respect I have the honour etc.

## *To JOHN TAYLOE

Mount Vernon, July 21, 1798.

Dear Sir: This instant, on my return from my usual ride, your favour of the 15th. was put into my hands by your Servt.

At the sametime that I express the pleasure I feel at seeing Gentlemen of your fortune, ease and Independent situation, step forward in vindication of the rights of our Country, it is incumbent on me to add, that Appointments in the Army which is to be raised, do not lye with me. but I shall not fail to send your letter to the Secretary of War, to be laid before the President of the U. S, who, I am persuaded, will view the tender of your Services in the favourable light I do myself.

If I take the field, a variety of circumstances must combine (some more powerful than my wishes) in the choice of my Aids, for which reason I shall avoid all engagements; and hold myself perfectly free until that period shall arrive, or is close at hand; unless singular cases shou'd arise, that I may be under no embarrassment in the selection of them at that time.

Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis are thankful for the kind remembrance of them by Mrs. Tayloe and yourself, and unite with me in best regards for you both. With great esteem, etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 18th. was brought by the Post of yesterday. The nominations, according to your list,[23] will be agreeable to me; although I retain the opinion, that Colo. Smith[24] is better calculated for a command in the line, than for Adjutant General. But what have you done respecting the Quarter Master-General?[25] I hope, and trust, it is not intended to Overlook the character I recommended in *pointed terms;* than whom, I will confidently add, one more adequate is not to be found in the U. States, let the Operations of the Army be in what quarter it will; nor so fit, if they be in the States South of

[23] McHenry's list was incorporated in his letter of July 18. It was "Alexander Hamilton, Inspector &c. Charles C. Pinckney, Henry Knox, Major Genls. John Brooks, Wm Washington, Jonathan Dayton, Brigadiers. Wm. S. Smith, Adjutant General. James Craik, physician Gen. Provisional Army. Henry Lee, Edward Hand, Major Generals. Ebenr. Huntington, Richeson Davie N. Carolina, Anthony W. White, John Sevier, Tennessee (present governor), Brigadiers."

[24] McHenry stated that there was strong opposition in the Senate to William S. Smith. This letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[25] McHenry answered (August 1): "I inclose the act for augmenting the army of the U. S. You will see that it does not provide for a Quarter Master General, and that the Provisional army law provides that the Quarter Master General under it shall have the rank and pay of Lieutenant Colonel only. I thought it best, therefore, that no quartermaster-general should be appointed 'till Congress meet again when they may amend their act." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

Maryland; as he knows, and is known by, every one in those Regions; being the Deputy Quarter Master General, under General Green, in all his active movements; and is as much esteemed as he is extensively known. In a word, if this appointment does not take place after my explanations (which I was careful to have well understood, respecting this Officer); and after it was given *specially* in charge to you, to consult me thereon, I shall feel very much hurt on the *general ground* I took; and more so, by confiding with certainty that that Officer, for the reasons I assigned, would be made agreeable to me, I wrote to Colo. Carrington and received the answer herewith enclosed; which may be returned after the proper use is made of it.

I desire it may be understood that my predilection for this Gentleman proceeds from no other cause than a *full* conviction of his fitness to fill the Office to which he was assigned, in my mind; for being seperated from the main Army he is infinitely better known to me by character, than from personal acquaintance (which in fact is slight); and from the steady and firm support he has given to the Government ever since. Such a character, with his Military knowledge, intelligence and experience in the duties of Quarter Master, would render him an acquisition to any Army; and the *only* fear I had, was, that he would decline accepting it. The present Qr Master Wilkins (I think his name is) may be adequate to the *Civil* duties of that Office, and while the *present* Troops are doing Garrison duty in the Western Country, little more is necessary; but bring him to an Assembled and moving army in the field, where Incampments and a thousand *Military* duties would be thrown upon him, and he would be found altogether incompetent, from an entire unacquaintedness with the Scenes.

By what circuitous rout did you come at, Severe,[26] in the Wilderness? He may be an estimable character for ought I know, but from the Impression I have of him, he is better qualified to *cut off Indians* than to discipline an Army, and lead a Brigade to the mouths of cannon. But, as I may have mistaken his character, I shall halt here with my strictures on it.

Also enclosed you will receive a letter from John Tayloe Esqr, to me; whom you must know by character, being the brother of Mrs. Lloyd and Son in law to Mrs. Ogle[27] of Annapolis. He is among the most wealthy and respectable men in this State, active, zealous and attentive to whatever he undertakes: On the Western Expedition, against the Insurgents he commanded a Troop of horse, and (I believe, but am not sure) was Aid to the Commander in Chief. What he looks to now, beyond the expression of his letter, I know not; with respect to the more definite part of it, I give one answer to all; and that is, and will continue to be (unless some very particular case should come forward), that until I take the field, or am in a situation to require Aids I shall hold myself perfectly disengaged, and free; as in the choice of my (established ones) there are many considerations, besides the mere indulgence of my wishes, to be combined. In addition to this, I have informed Mr. Tayloe that I would transmit his letter to you; to be laid before the President; not doubting it would give him, as it had done me, pleasure to find Gentlemen in his situation, and of Independent fortune, stepping forward at such a Crisis with a tender of their Services.

I presume, he would prefer an Appointment in the Cavalry, and I have no doubt that he could raise a very fine Troop; but

[26] John Sevier. He was Governor of Tennessee.
[27] Benjamin Ogle. He was Governor of Maryland from 1798 to 1801.

whether he would be satisfied with that, or whether more could be offered with due attention to the old Cavalry Officers of *known* and *acknowledged* celebrity, I am not prepared to decide. Possibly, such an appointment, with the Priviledge of chusing his own Lieutenant and Cornet, might induce his acceptance. And here, I will take the liberty of giving it as my opinion once for all, that when the President has fixed upon Officers of established character to Command Companies, *Gentlemen* who prise their own honour, and the reputation of their Companies, that it would be good policy to let them chuse, or at least to recommend, their own Subalterns; It would facilitate recruiting, contribute much to the harmony of the Company; and if the Captain himself is properly chosen, it may be relied on that he will be cautious not to hazard his own, and the reputation of his company with bad Officers if known or even suspected to be unfit for his purpose.

I do not recollect enough of the *present* Officers in the Cavalry, or of those who have been disbanded, to say with decision which of them is *best entitled* to the Command of that Corps; but I have no hesitation in declaring it as my opinion, that Major Talmadge (formerly of Sheldons horse) would not disgrace it, and is to be preferred to his former Colonel.

In furnishing the list I gave you when here, from whom Field Officers might be selected for the Corps to be raised, I omitted (not seeing his name enrolled) Major Ragsdale[28] of the Artillery. His character in that Corps I am told, stood high. How it has happened that he is yet in the back ground, whether from choice, or because he has been overlooked, I am unable to say. He is of this State, as Talmadge is of New York.[29]

[28] Drury Ragsdale, formerly of the First Continental Artillery.
[29] Tallmadge had been of Connecticut.

A Lieutt. Marsteller[30] (at present of the Troop of Horse, in Alexandria) has been recommended to me as a man wishing, and deserving of an Appointment in the Army, about to be raised. A Doctr. Peyton,[31] son of a very worthy man, and brother to two of the best Officers in Lee's Corp of Horse during the Revolution War, has also applied for a birth in the Medical line. I have answered, that appointments are not with me, that recommendations accompanying my letters, to them should go to the President direct, or through the Secretary of War. Possibly you may see these. They must speak for themselves.

The first is well spoken of as an Officer and Gentleman. He was in the Horse on the Western Expedition, and by accident received a wound. The other (Doctr. Peyton) is but lately returned after an absence of five years in Europe, I believe in the Study of Physick. I have also been told that the Captn. (Young)[32] of the Alexandria Troop is desirous of employment; but as his application has not been direct, I but barely mention the fact. Doctr. Craik did say something too, respecting his Son (who was in my family) going into the Army, but as nothing definite passed I shall say nothing more on the subject. His Son in law West (Major in one of the uniform Corps) is desirous in case the Provisional Army is raised, of obtaining an appointment therein. And now, having laid before you every thing that has occur'd to me I shall add no more, at present, than that I am.

P. S. I do not know whether Mr. Edwd Rutledge would come forward, or not; but I know of none except General Knox who would command the Corps of Artillery more respectably.

[30] Philip(?) Marsteller.
[31] Valentine Peyton.
[32] Henry(?) Young.

## *To WILLIAM TEMPLE BROOME

Mount Vernon, July 24, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 18th Instt. has been received, and I thank you for the tenor of your Services in my family if I should take the field; but as the Gentlemen about me, *in that event,* must be composed of experienced characters, candour requires that I should inform you my purposes would not be answered by receiving those who are not so. I am etc.

## *To THOMAS CADWALADER

Mount Vernon, July 24, 1798.

Sir: In answer to your favour of the 20th, I can assure you with much truth that I had a very sincere and Affectionate regard for Genl. Cadwalader,[33] your father, when alive; and that it would give me great pleasure to do any thing in my power, consistently with the object in view, to serve his Son.

But if circumstances should render it expedient for me to take the Field, the varigated, and important duties of the Commander in Chief are such as to require, indispensably, that the Gentleman of whom his family are composed should be experienced, and well acquainted with the duties they are to perform. This then, candour bids me say, is an insuperable bar to your wishes for an appointment as one of my Aids; and it is more than probable my old Secretary Lear of whom I have had fourteen years proof, of his Integrity and abilities, will fill this Office under my present appointment.

Of what age you are, I know not, if twenty one (under which no appointments, *knowingly* were made when I was in

[33] John Cadwalader.

the Administration of the Government (except in the case of young Mr. Izard [34] who was sent to qualify himself as an Engineer in one of the Military Acadamies in France) there is no doubt if it be your desire, and that of your friends, but you might receive a Commission in the line of the Army.

Mrs Washington unites with me in compliments and best wishes to Mrs Cadwalader and with esteem etc.

## *To FRANCIS CORBIN

Mount Vernon, July 24, 1798.

Sir: I have been duly honored in the receipt of your favours of the 7th. and 18th. Instant. The first of which, would have received an earlier acknoweldgment had I not been occupied with very unexpected business, which has kept me pretty closely engaged for the last ten or twelve days.

I ought not indeed to have delayed it so long. 1 because the Gentleman on whose behalf (Doctr. Belknap) I troubled you, I perceive by the Boston Gazette is since dead. and 2. because my gratitude ought sooner to have been expressed, in return for the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express in my behalf. Let me now thank you for them.

Candour, Sir, requires I should inform you, that if circumstances shd make it necessary for me to take the Field, my Aids must be composed of some of the most *experienced* Officers I can obtain; the various and complex duties of the Commander in Chief requiring it; while it is more than, probable my Old Secretary, Mr. Lear, of whose abilities, prudence and integrity I have received proof near fourteen years *in my own family,* will be called to the same Office under my new Appointment.

[34] George Izard.

It is right too, that I should signify it as my *belief,* that the *Field* Officers in the *Augmented Corps,* will more than probable, be selected from the Officers of most celebrity of the *Old* Army; but if the Provisional Force is called out, there will be openings for the Spirited Gentlemen, of influence, in the different States to come forward.

At all times, when it conforms with your convenience, I should be glad to see you at this place; being Sir Your etc.

## To GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

Mount Vernon, July 24, 1798.

Dear Washington: Your letter of the 21st was received last night. The question, "I would thank you to inform me whether I leave it entirely, or not, so that I may pack up accordingly," really astonishes me! for it would seem as if *nothing* I could say to you made more than a *momentary* impression. Did I not, before you went to that seminary, and since by letter, endeavor to fix indelibly on your mind, that the object for which you were sent there was to finish a course of education which you yourself were to derive the benefit of hereafter, and for pressing which upon you, you would be the first to thank your friends so soon as reason has its proper sway in the direction of your thoughts?

As there is a regular stage between Annapolis and the federal city, embrace that as the easiest and most convenient way of getting to the latter, from whence Mr. Law or Mr. Peter will, I have no doubt, send you hither; or a horse might meet you there, or at Alexandria, at an appointed time.

The family are well; and I am, as usual, your etc.[35]

[35] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington.*

## *To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, July 25, 1798.

Esteemed Sir: Your favour of the 8th. of February came safe, and would have received an earlier acknowledgment if any thing had sooner occurred, worthy of communication.

I hope you have not only got relieved of the fever from which you were then recovering, but of the langour with which it had affected you; and that you are now engaged in the literary pursuits of which you gave the outlines, and which with your pen and under your arrangement of the subjects, must be curious, entertaining and Instructive. Thus persuaded, if you propose to carry the work on the plan of subscription, it would give me pleasure to be enrolled in the list of subscribers.

I little imagined, when I took my last leave of the walks of Public life and retired to the Shades of my Vine and Fig tree that any event would arise *in my day* that could bring me again on a public theatre. But the unjust, ambitious and intoxicated conduct of France towards these U: States has been, and continues to be such, that it must be opposed by a firm and manly resistance, or we shall not only hazard the Subjugation of our Government but the Independence of our Nation also; both being evidently struck at by a lawless Domineering Power who respects no Rights, and is restrained by no Treaties when it is found inconvenient to observe them.

Thus situated, sustaining daily injuries, even indignities, with a patient forbearance, from a sincere desire to live in Peace and Harmony with all the World; the French Directory, mistaking the motives; the American character; and supposing that the *People* of this Country were divided, and would give countenance to their nefarious measures, have proceeded to exact

loans (or in other words contributions) and to threaten us, in case of non compliance with their wild, unfounded and inconsistent complaints that we should share the fate of Venice and other Italian States.

This has roused the People from their slumbers and have filled them with indignation from one extremity to the other of the Union, and I trust, if they should attempt to carry their threats into effect and invade our Territorial, as they have done our Commercial Rights, they will meet a Spirit that will give them more trouble than they are aware of in the Citizens of these States.

When every thing Sacred, and dear to Freemen is thus threatned, I could not consistent with the principles which have actuated me through life, remain an idle spectator, and refuse to obey the call of my Country to lead its Armies for *defence* and therefore have pledged myself to come forward whensoever the exigency shall require it.

With what sensations at my time of life (now turned of 66) without Ambition or interest to stimulate me thereto, I shall relinquish the peaceful walks to which I had retired, and in the shades of which I had fondly hoped to spend the remnant of a life worn down with cares in contemplation on the past and in scenes present and to come of rural growth; let others, and especially those who are best acquainted with the construction of my Mind decide, while I believing that a man was not designed by the All wise Creator to live for himself alone prepare for the worst that can happen.

The Gardener you were so obliging as to send me continues to conduct himself extremely well. He is industrious, sober, and orderly, and understands his business. In short I never had a hired servant that pleased me better, and what adds to my

satisfaction is that he is content himself, having declared that he never was happier in his life. My best wishes will always attend you, and with very grt. esteem &c.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 25, 1798.

Dear Sir: The enclosed will say as much as I can, in favour of the applicant,[86] except that I have heard him exceedingly well spoken of by others.

Being a young man of Education; a Gentleman's son who was able to give him little besides it; and sound in his Politic's, notwithstanding the example of his nearest relative; who are, I believe, without exception, in the opposite scale, I think he, and all such would be an acquisition to the service. More especially in the Artillery where Education, study and Science are indispensible. from the character given of Mr. Mercer I think he would make an Excellent Artillery Officer. I am alway. etc.

## *To CHARLES FENTON MERCER

Mount Vernon, July 25, 1798.

Sir: Your letter with its enclosures have been received; whether in the ordinary course of the Mail I am unable to inform you, as you have omitted to give it a date. From the copies of yours to Doctr. Smith, and his to the President, which are dated the 9th. and 10th. of June, It is to be feared that there has been much delay in the case.

From the very sincere regard entertained for your deceased Uncles father, while living; but more especially from the favourable character given of yourself by Doctr. Smith, I feel

[86] Charles Fenton Mercer.

every disposition to second your wish to enter into the Army of the United States, in defence of those rights which have been, and continue to be, so outrageously attacked, by a Power which disregards all Law, and all Treaties which are found inconvenient for them to observe and, accordingly, have made your desires known to the Secretary of War, in a letter of this date, and wish, if not too late, that it may have the desired effect.

A *close* study of Law, would be incompatible with the Military duties you would have to perform as an Officers, [*sic*] but a considerable portion of your time might be devoted to the reading of it; and be more eligably spent than in the dissipations which are but too common in a Camp or Quarters. I am etc.

## *To JOHN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, July 25, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 6th. of Mar, with the proofs of the two first Prints of the American Revolution came duly to hand, and merit those thanks which I offer with great cordiality.

Such repeated proofs of your kind attention to me, affect my sensibility without enabling me to express it in the manner I wish; further than to assure you, in strong terms, of my sincere friendship; of which I hope, and trust, you had no doubt before.

New Scenes are opening upon us, and a very unexpected one, as it respects myself, is unfolding. What will be the final result of these measures is only known to that Providence in whose directions all things are. When I bid adieu last to the Theatre of public life, I thought it was hardly possible that any event would arise, *in my day,* that would induce me to tread that stage again.

But this is an age of Wonders, and I have once more consented to become an Actor in the great Drama. The conduct

of the French Nation towards our own, has been so extraordinary and outrageous, as to have drawn forth an expression of the public sentiment as unequivocal, and pleasing to the friends of this Country, as it was unexpected, and must be mortifying to the Rulers of that, and their Partizans here. Both of whom, it is now evident, have been greatly mistaken in their calculation of the Temper of the *People* from one end of the Union to the other.

When may we look for the pleasure of seeing you in this Country again. Mrs. Washington (who is as well as usual) and Miss Custis unite with me in every good wish for you; and with much truth I remain, etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1798.

Dear Sir: The *Greyheads* of Alexandria, pretty numerous it seems, and composed of all the respectable old People of the place; having formed themselves into a Company [37] for the defence of the Town and its Vicinity, are in want of Colours; and it being intimated that the Presentation of them by Mrs. Washington would be flattering to them; I take the liberty of requesting the favour of you to have made and sent to me as soon as it is convenient, such as will be appropriate to the occasion. Handsome, but not more expensive than becomes Republicans (not Bachite Republicans) is reqd. If you think a Motto would be proper, the choice of one "chaste and unassuming," is left to your own judgment. Send the cost, and the money shall be remitted by Yours always

[37] Called "The Silver Greys."

## *To WILLIAM HAMBLY[38]

Mount Vernon, July 28, 1798.

Sir: Bearing in grateful remembrance the very fine Cheeses, you had the goodness to send me, Mrs. Washington prays your acceptance of half a dozen Hams of her own curing.[39] I am etc.

## *To ANTHONY MacHARG

Mount Vernon, July 28, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 16th instt. has been duly received. A person understanding, as you profess to do, the Art of training horses and Instructing their Riders for Military Service, would certainly be very useful in the Cavalry of the United States; but whether provision is made for such an Officer, in the Law which establishes them, I am unable to say.

All therefore I can add, on this subject, for want of this knowledge, and a better knowledge of your character and fitness for the Office you seek, is, to advise you to apply to the Secretary of War by *letter,* to be informed whether on public or private account, it is likely you cd. be employed for the purpose you mention; but previous to this as you probably are unknown to him, and strangers I presume will not be admitted who cannot produce *ample* testimonials of their character, and good deportment, as well as fitness for teaching I recommend it to you, as an indispensible measure to have your character well certified by the principal Inhabitants of Norfolk and such Officers

[38] Of Falmouth, England.

[39] Washington wrote (July 28) to Thompson & Veitch, of Alexandria, Va., the text of which letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers;* but may be judged from their reply (July 30): "We are favoured with yours of the 28th Instant and have forwarded the Hams pr ship *Suffolk* (that sailed this day). . . . We with pleasure accept your friendly invitation to a family dinner, and shall soon make it convenient to doe ourselves the Honour of waiting on you at Mount Vernon." This letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

of the Government as may reside at that place and transmit the same, with this letter to the War Office and it will place the application on decisive ground when you receive his answer; without which, as a stranger, it is not probable your application would be attended to. I am etc.

P. S. Among other things, which the Secretary might wish to know are, your Country; how long you have been in the United States, and what have been your pursuits since.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 28, 1798.

Dear Sir: From a mistaken idea, numberless applications for appointments in the Army of the U. States are made to me. Where the applicants are known, or come under favourable auspices, I shall think it a duty incumbent on me to transmit them to the War Office.

Mr. Triplet's family are respectable; of his Medical or Surgical abilities I have no knowledge; Colo. Little whose letter I enclose, is the Lieutenant of this County, a Gentleman of character, and one on whom entire confidence may be placed; but I have advised him, notwithstanding, to obtain a line from Doctr. Craik the Physician General, who must be acquainted with him as they are both residents of Alexandria. I am etc.

## *To JUDGE ALEXANDER ADDISON

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 11th. Instant, dated in Philadelphia, has been received; accompanied by one from Colo. Pickering, advising me of his having received, from you, on my A/c, the Sum of Seventeen hundred dollars as part of the Installment

due the 1st. of June last, on the deceased Colonel Matthew Ritchie's Bond.

For want of the Bond, which was deposited in the Bank of Pennsylvania, at Colo. Ritchie's request, I am at a loss to understand the meaning of your question, and statement. "The amt. of the payment due on 1st of June last is Dollrs. 3292.80 of which 352.80 is interest; will the Interested [*sic*] be calculated on 3292.80 or on 2940?" If the Bond had been complied with, and the Instalment of $3292.80 had been paid at the time it became due no question could have arisen. If then I rightly comprehend the meaning of it, it can hardly be expected that, besides sustaining the inconvenience of a disappointment of the receipt, that I should feel an injury also in the payment, occasioned by that delay. Had I received $3292.80 on the 1st day of June agreeably to the tenor of the Bond, that sum might, and would have been actively employed in *stopping* interest, or vesting it so as to have *produced it.* In this light I persuade myself the matter will strike you, and when I add, which I can do with truth, that the non-reception of the above Sum, and an Instalment due on Colo. Shreves Bond for a similar purpose, and due at the sametime, has been attended with a serious disappointment, your doubts will be removed and the full sum be paid so soon as you are enabled.

Amicable decisions are, in my opinion, always to be prefered to litigeous contentions; but I little expected after it was agreed to *fix the price* of the Land by a re-survey of its contents, and that, that resurvey probably was made with knowledge, if not in the presence, of Mr. James Reed, that I should ever be called upon for a deduction of it thereafter. If I have a right understanding of the matter, it is of little moment what Mr. Reeds Patent says if the words of mine are opposed to it, for I am much mistaken indeed if my Survey was not made, and Patent

granted *long* before any others on Millers run. And I have perfect recollection of the fact (when I examined the land myself in Autumn of 1784) but not of the persons name, who I was told was then extending his clearings on my side of the line. More than probable, Read is the Man, and being in possession, claims it as a Right.

As all the Papers relative to this land have been transfered to Colo. Ritchie; As all of them passed through the hands of the Honble. Mr Ross who drew the writings; and was well acquainted with the understanding of the parties at the time, acting the part of a mutual friend to both. I am willing if he should think I ought to have any further concern in disputes arising after the price was fixed in the manner aforesaid, that he on my behalf and you (shewing him this letter) should agree on the most speedy, and equitable mode of adjusting that which exists with Mr. James Reed. I pray you to excuse this scrawl, as I write in much haste. I am etc.

## *To JAMES ASHE

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1798.

Sir: I have been duly honored with the receipt of your favour of the 23d. Instant.

As you are known to, and have a reliance on the friendship of the Secretary of War, there can be no doubt but that his recommendation of you to the President of the United States would ensure you a Commission in the line of the Army.

With respect to the Gentlemen who are to compose my family as Aids de Camp, so many considerations must combine in the choice of them that I shall delay making it, unless a particular case should occur, until I take the Field. With thanks however for your offer I am etc.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 9th. Ulto. (to which I replied on the 17th following) is the last I have received from you. And nothing more have I heard of the Pictures from Mr. Savage and the last Vole. of the Encyclœdia which you say you were then about to Ship in a Vessel loading for Alexandria.

For my sentiments respecting the old Coach and Table Ornaments I refer to my last of the above date 17th June, and repeat my request of a picture frame of the quality and size therein mentioned. With esteem etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 25th. instt. came to Alexandria Yesterday evening, and was put into my hands this morn: For the Rules and regulations accompanying it, I thank you; and will read them attentively, if I am allowed time; but this is questionable, as I am assailed from all quarters, and by all descriptions of People, for Commissions, Introductions, recommendations, &ca. to *all* of which common civility makes some sort of reply necessary, while among them, there are a few, to whom more particular answers must be given.

This leads me to ask, whether, a Secretary, previous to the contingencies on which my taking the Field is placed, will be allowed? The pay I mean. Without which the moments which are employed in my usual and necessary avocation; and which, at all leisure hours I have been devoting to the arrangement and overhaul of my voluminous Public Papers, Civil and Military, that, they may go into secure deposits, and

hereafter, into hands, that may be able to seperate the grain from the chaff. I say, without this aid, my time (and in truth I had, from a variety of causes which it is needless to enumerate, little enough of before) will be entirely taken up by *personal* visits and written applications for Office, and such other matters as are incidental to my late appointment.

The motives to this question are explained; the necessity I conceive is appart. but as I have placed my own services, pay and emoluments, upon contingencies which may happen sooner, or later, or never, you are to decide and will accordingly advice, whether a Secretary can be appointed previously to this event, with the pay, and forage allowance, annexed to the Office or not.[40]

You will not have transmitted to you the half, perhaps not a tenth part of the applications, which are made to me. It may be taken for granted therefore, that all who appear to you under my auspices, are such as I am either personally acquainted with; know their families; or am satisfied with the recommendations they bring.

Your answers to Mr. Caton and Judge Chase were judicious and proper. Of the propriety of remaining *perfectly* free from all engagements respecting my Aids, I am more and more convinced as the applications encrease and the little knowledge displayed of the qualifications which the Aids of the Commander in Chief ought to possess, is discovered by the Applicants. The variegated, and important duties of the Aids of a Commander in Chief, or, the Commander of a seperate Army, require expe-

[40] McHenry replied (August 25): "The President desires me to inform you, that he considers you in the public service from the date of your appointment, and entitled to all the emoluments of it; that you are at liberty to receive all, or any part, at your discretion, that you are fully authorised to appoint your aids and secretaries, when you shall think fit; that one secretary at least is indispensable immediately, and that he ought to be allowed his pay and rations. You will be pleased, therefore, to make any or all of these appointments, when you may judge proper." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

rienced Officers, men of judgment, and men of business, *ready pens* to execute them properly, and with dispatch. A great deal more is required of them than attending him at a Parade, or delivering verbal orders here and there; or copying a written one. They ought if I may be allowed to use the expression, to possess the Soul of the General; and from a *single* Idea given to them, to convey his meaning in the clearest and fullest manner. This, young men unacquainted with the Service and diffident, would not do; be their abilities what they may. One or two of the latter, as extra: might be receivd but the choice must depend on Circumstances.

Why do you not say something about the Quarter Master General, and Adjutant General? I am thrown entirely into the field of conjecture to account for the Cause of your Silence on these interesting points; nor am I relieved in either by the Gazettes, except by a blind A/c in Bache that Colo. Smith as Brigr did not obtain. Will Colo. Hamilton accept? Have you heard from the other Genl Offrs? My Paper is done, and I am always yrs.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 30, 1798.

Dear Sir: The writer of the enclosed letter, in name and character, is an entire Stranger to me; nor do I know whether by the Law establishing the Cavalry any provision is made, under which such a person could be employed; tho' certain it is, if Mr. Macharg understands, what he professes to be master of, he might be employed very advantageously in training that part of our force.

I have wrote him to this effect; adding, that as he is a stranger, his application to the War Office must be accompanied by ample testimonials; not only of his skill in the business he

professes, but to his character in all other respects, with which, and my letter to him, he would come properly before you; and without which, I conceived it wd. be useless to apply. I am, etc.

## To JOHN McDOWELL

Mount Vernon, July 30, 1798.

Sir: Being very much engaged of late in a manner I little expected, I have not only suffered your favor of the 19th instant to remain unacknowledged, but not attending to the time of the vacation of St. Johns college, I have suffered that also to arrive, or to approach too near for the enclosed remittances to defray the expenses of Mr. Custis, before it is probable he left Annapolis.

Allow me the liberty, for this reason, to put the accounts which he has just transmitted to me, under cover to you, with bank notes of Columbia for one hundred dollars, to discharge and take a receipt thereon, to be returned to me.

The pressure which is upon me at this time will not allow me to say anything relatively to the course of studies marked out for Mr. Custis when he returns to college. I will write more fully to you on this subject at a future time. Sir, I remain, etc.[41]

## *To JAMES SHEPHARD

Mount Vernon, July 30, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 30th of last month would have received an earlier acknowledgment, had I not, for some time past, been occupied in matters that called for more immediate attention.

As my taking the Field depends upon contingencies, and may, or may not, according to circumstances, happen. Nay, if

[41] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington.*

it should happen, your application even in that case ought, in the first instance, to go to the Secretary of the Navy; I do advise (if you have entire confidence in your plan) that you submit the project to Benjr. Stoddard Esqr. the Secretary of that Department, in Philadelphia to whom Naval matters, and every thing thereunto belonging, is entrusted by the Government; and who will, I am persuaded, give it all the attention its merits may deserve. I am etc.

## *To RICHARD CLOUGH ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, July 30, 1798.

Sir: In the course of last Winter A Mr. Massay passed through Alexandria on his way to Philadelphia, and reported at the former place, that I should *lose my land* in the North Western Territory, on the little Miami.

Not perceiving how this could happen, *fairly* and not supposing that it would be taken from me otherwise, without allowing me a hearing; I paid but little attention to the Report until Mr. George Graham called upon me the other day, and in conversing on this subject gave it as his opinion that, the land was in real jeopardy by re-entry under some error in the former proceedings, and advised me to write to you relatively thereto.

This I now do, under full conviction however, that as the former Surveys were made under your Auspices; examined and recorded in your Office; and Patents granted thereupon in the year 1790 with the following recital "In consideration of a Military warrant of 3000 Acres granted to John Roots by Lord Dunmore the 7th December 1770 and assigned by the said Rootes unto George Washington Esqr the 14th. February 1774 and exchanged by a Resolution of General Assembly passed

30th Decr. 1784 for a Warrant of 3000 Acres No. 3753 and dated the 14th. Feby. 1785." I say, under full conviction that you would not suffer the land to be wrested from me by any Subsequent transaction in your Office, without giving me notice thereof in time to assert my prior claim, I now give you the trouble of this Address; adding at the sametime that if any thing is necessary on my part to give more validity or greater legality to former proceedings, I am willing to encounter the expence, rather than enter into a tedious and expensive Chancery suit, which I assuredly will do before my property shall be taken from me.[42]

I would thank you Sir, for full information, and your advice relative to this matter, as soon as it is convenient.[43] Being Your etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 31, 1798.

Dear Sir: To a person as well acquainted with the writers of the letters herewith enclosed, as you are, it is hardly necessary to add a word in further recommendation of Major Parker[44] to an Appointment in the augmented Army. And yet, there is some thing so singularly meritorious in his whole family *as*

[42] The difficulty arose from the Virginia cession of her western lands to the United States, which changed the method of establishing titles of private ownership. Washington had complied with all the regulations of the Virginia land recording laws; but seems not to have noticed the necessity of reentry, or transfer of record, with the United States. The land formed a portion of Washington's estate and was mentioned in the inventory accompanying his will. In 1806 Joseph Kerr then deputy surveyor of the Virginia military district of Ohio and later United States Senator from that State, deliberately took advantage of the technicalities of the law and filed on this Washington land. The subsequent suits and legal disputes and claims continued down to 1909. A full account of the matter by E. O. Randall is published in the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, vol. 19 (1910), pp. 304–19. (See also Prussing's *Estate of George Washington, Deceased.*)

[43] Anderson was fully persuaded that Washington's title was clear and unassailable, as his reply to this letter (of September 5, in the *Washington Papers*) shows.

[44] Thomas Parker.

*Military men* that I shd. think I was not doing justice to the Service were I not to advise, if in time, that he should be Commissioned as a field Officer (being Captn. at the close of the last War and an Aid de Camp to General Morgan on the Western Expedition.

Majr. Parker thinks a number of Men could be raised in Berkley and Frederick Counties in the last of which he resides, in the Neighbourhood of Genl. Morgan and your old friend Richd Kidder Meade, who I am sure wd give him all their assistance. I am etc. The Letters accompanying this may or may not, as you shall [think] best, be returned to me.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1798.

Dear Sir: The letters herewith, from Colonels Fitzgerald and Simms, conveys all the information I am enabled to give you relatively to the characters of Captn. Piercy[45] (who is a good looking man, apparently turned of Forty) and Mr. Bent.[46]

Where applications are made to me by persons whom I know, or from the Report of those in whom I can confide, believe are deserving, I shall pass them on to your Office; with *special notice* when the case requires it.

Whether the suggestion contained in Mr. James Shephards letter (also under cover with this) is worthy of Investigation by the Secretary of the Navy, you and he will be able to decide, when you read it. I have, in answer, pointed out that mode as best for him to pursue. I am etc.[47]

[45] Capt. Henry Pearcy (Piercy). He was appointed captain of the Eighth U. S. Infantry in January, 1799, and honorably discharged in June, 1800.

[46] Lemuel Bent. He was appointed lieutenant in the Eighth U. S. Infantry in January, 1799, and honorably discharged in June, 1800.

[47] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 2, 1798.

Dear Sir: Finding that I was not altogether correct, in giving the Uniform of the Company of *Grey heads* in the Town of Alexandria, I amend, as soon as possible, the mistake, by transmitting the letter of the Captn. thereof, Colo. Simms. to Mrs. Washington.

Have you received my letter of the 22d. of July? The enquiry there made respecting the Quarter Master General is of serious and interesting moment to me. If the business, which my own Appointment has involved me in, encreases, or even continues I shall soon be under the necessity of calling upon that Officer, or you for a supply of Stationary. On you particularly for copying Paper; who, better than he, will know, or can direct the proper sort. I thought I came home well provided with these articles but shall soon run Short. Yrs. Affectly. [H. S. P.]

## *To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, August 2, 1798.

Dear Sir: I was glad to hear by Charles that you were much better than when we saw you last. If you have missed the Ague, care, and Bark,[48] is necessary to prevent a return, and this prudence requires.

Monday next being the day fixed on by the Constitution of the Potomac Company for its annual meeting, and as you seem resolved to relinquish your present Office of President, I wish

[48] Quinine, which was often called "Jesuit's bark."

you would turn your thoughts attentively to the situation of it, and resolve seriously on characters fit and proper to supply the place of those who perhaps ought to, as well as those who will quit, the Director ship; that our struggles in that interesting and expence concert [*sic*], the labour of years, may not end in disgrace and loss.

The little leisure I had *before* my late appointment (from Visits, my necessary rides, and other occurrences) to overhaul, arrange, and separate papers of real, from those of little or no value, is now, by that event, so much encroached upon by personal and written applications for Offices, and other matters incidental to the Situation of the Commander in Chief that without assistance I must abandon all idea of accomplishing this necessary work, before I embark in New Scenes, which will render them more voluminous and of course more difficult. A measure which would be extremely irksome to me, to submit to, especially as it respects my A/cts. which are yet in a jumble. My earnest wish and desire being, when I quit the stage of human action, to leave *all matters* in such a situation as to give as little trouble as possible to those who will have the management of them thereafter.

Under this view of my situation, which is far from being an agreeable one; and at times fill me with deep concern, when I perceive so little prospect of a complete extrication. I have written to the Secretary of War to be informed whether (as my taking the Field is contingent, and no pay or emolument will accrue to myself until then) I am at liberty to appoint my Secretary immediately; who shall be allowed his pay and Forage from the moment he joins me. If he answers in the affirmative, *on those terms,* can you do this?

Have you heard from the Master of the Academy at Charlestown? At any rate, my opinion is, that you had better, with

the least possible delay, get the boys fixed *permanently* at some good school. They will, otherwise, lose precious moments. Let me hear from you. I am, in haste, but aways Your Affecte.

## *To JONATHAN R. WILMER [49]

Mount Vernon, August 2, 1798.

Sir: Yesterday evening brot. me your favour of the 23d. Ulto. and entitles you to the thanks I am about to present, for the offer you have been pleased to make, of becoming one of my Aids de Camp.

As I shall have no occasion for these until I take the field, I mean to hold myself perfectly free from all engagements (unless a particular case should arise) until then; when a variety of considerations will be necessary to attend to, in making my choice among which experience cannot be altogether overlooked. I am etc.

## *To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Mount Vernon, August 2, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favour of the 29th. Ulto, and feel much flattered by the tender of Mr. Carrolls services as one of my Aids de Camp. Indeed, nothing can be more grateful to my Sensibility, than the numberless offers of a similar kind from Gentlemen of the first families, fortunes and expectations, in all parts of the U. S.

But you know, my good Sir, that my coming forward, or rather taking the field, depends upon the contingencies mentioned in my letter to the President of the United States, which,

[49] Of Annapolis, Md.

I perceive, has been given to the public; and until that event takes place that I shall have no occasion for Aids de Camp. You also know, that it is an invariable maxim with me, never, before hand, and until the moment requires it, to pledge myself by promises which I might find embarrassing to comply with. And in the case before us, this precaution becomes peculiarly necessary, and Interesting; for in the choice of Aids de Camp, by the Commander in Chief, a variety of considerations (more powerful often than wishes, to gratify his own inclinations, or the desires of friends) must combine; among which, none is of greater, or more essential importance than *experience* and a thorough knowledge in his (first, and principal) Aids, of the duties they are to perform. With this and a single idea given to them by the General, they are enabled to enlarge upon, and convey his meanings in detail; which diffident young men without experience would not, nor ought not to hazard. Aids to the Commander in Chief, or Officer commanding a separate Army, ought also to be Men of business, and ready penmen; for the number of letters which are written, received and to be answered; Orders to be given; Instructions to draw &ca. &ca. call for these qualifications: and often close employment to all around him.

I have been more diffuse in my reply to you, on the Subject of Aids de Camp, than I have been, or shall be to others; because I would wish you to understand the *principle* upon which I act, and the necessity there is, that my principal Aids should be men who have seen a good deal of Service, and are well acquainted with the Duties of their Office. of Camps, and regular rotine.

Although I highly approve of the measures taken by Government to place this Country in a posture of defense, I even

wish they had been *more energetic,* and shall be ready to obey its call, under the reservations I have made, whenosever it is made; yet I am not without hope, mad and intoxicated as the French are, that they will pause before they take the last step. That they have been deceived in their calculations on the devision of the People, and the powerful support they expected from *their* party, is reduced to uncertainty; though it is somewhat equivocal still whether that party, who have been the curse of this country, and the sourse of the expences we have to encounter, may not be able to continue their delusion. What pity it is, this expence could not be taxed upon them. But finding I am getting from Aids de Camp to Politics, I will halt where I am, and assure that with very great esteem and regard I remain etc.

## *To THOMAS NELSON

Mount Vernon, August 2, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th. Ulto came to my hands by the last Post, and I thank you for the Offer you have made me of your Services as one of my Aids de Camp; But as you will have seen by the reservation made in my letter to the President of the U. States (which I perceive is published in the Gazettes) that my coming forward depends upon contingencies; so, the appointing of my Aids, will be regulated by that call upon me, until which, I shall have no occasion of Aids; and 'till then shall hold myself perfectly free; (unless some particular case should occasion a departure from it); as in the choice of mine, many considerations (some more powerful than friendship, or the indulgence of my own Inclinations) must combine. Mrs. Washington is thankful for your kind remembrance of her. And I am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letter from Doctr. Brown[50] (of Port tobacco) to Doctr. Craik, was this day put into my hands by the latter; who speaks favourably of the Medical abilities of the former. I wish to be considered in no other light than as a Vehicle of the application to the President, through you; for of Doctr Brown I have no knowledge, and of his fitness I can say nothing. One thing however, merits attention. The State of Maryland is highly Federal, both in its collective and Individual character, and I see no office of any Importance allotted to a Member of it:[51] whether the one sought for by Doctr. Brown (wch. I presume is second in the Medical Department) will come under this description you can decide as well as, Dr Sir Yr. etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 12th. Ulto. came duly to hand, but the expectation that Congress would rise sooner than it really did, in the first place; and the supposition that Mr. Craik would return home, so soon as [it] did rise in the next; have delayed my acknowledgment of its receipt, and giving direction relative to the money paid you on my A/c by Judge Addison, until now.

[50] Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown. He was one of the attending physicians in Washington's last illness. Dr. William Brown, of Alexandria, Va., had been called, but was away from home at that time.

[51] At this point the press copy is starred by Washington and a marginal note is starred: "excuse this hint" [*sic*].

But learning from Doctr. Craik (now here) that his Son is gone to the Seaboard, for a stay of ten or twelve days; I do, in order to relieve you from further suspence, request, unless it would suit the Treasury Office to receive the money *there* and give me a draught upon the Collector *in Alexandria,* that you wd. retain it in your hands to be sent by Mr. Ck. or some other safe conveyance.

But, previous thereto, let me pray you to pay Colo. Clem: Biddle Two hundred Dollars on my behalf, out of the $1700 deposited in your hands for my use, by Mr. Addison, as part of the Instalment due on the Bond of the deceased Colo. Matthew Ritchie. With great esteem and regard etc.

## *To THE POSTMASTER OF ALEXANDRIA

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1798.

Sir: The letters enclosed, were sent up to your Office yesterday afternoon, and were returned to me. It is not the first, nor second time I have been served in this manner; but it may be considered as an evidence of the inattention with which the duties of your Office are discharged. I am etc.

## *To JOSIAH DUNHAM[52]

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1798.

Sir: Your favor of the 13th. Ulto. accompanying the Oration delivered by you on the Anniversary of American Independence, I recd. by the last Post. For both I thank you. The sentiments expressed therein do me much honour. They flatter me highly and cannot fail to make a grateful impression on the sensibility of one who offers you in return his very best wishes and the assurances of being Sir Your etc.

[52] Of Hanover, N. H.

## *To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your consent to accept the Office of Quarter Master General to the armies of the United States, gave me sincere pleasure. Not finding, after the arrangement of this matter with the Secretary of War, your name in the list of nominations and appointments (announced by the Papers), I wrote to him to be informed of the cause; and received the following answer.

I inclose the Act to augment the army of the U. S. You will see that it does not provide for a Quarter Master General, and that the Provisional Army Law provides that the Qr Mr. Genl. under it shall have the Rank and pay of Lt. Colonel only. I thought it best therefore that no Quarter master General should be appointed 'till Congress meet again when they may amend their Act.

This explanation, though I regret the cause, will allow you the time you seemed to wish, to make other arrangements, unless an actual Invasion (which I do not think probable) or such demonstrations of it as cannot be mistaken, should call us all to Arms, in which case I am persuaded you would be among the last to stand upon punctilio.

When the Secretary of War was at this place, the Bill for augmenting the Army of the U. S. was then pending in Congress; and before he got back to the Seat of Government it had passed, and Congress had adjourned. This will account for the unfinished State in which (to my surprise I confess) the important Department of Quarter Master was left.

I felt it incumbent on me to give you these details, lest my former letter, and attempt to embark you in the service, should, on the face of it, appear to be more strongly marked with perciptancy than discretion. With very great esteem etc.

## *To WILLIAM HETH

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 30th Ulto. was brought me by fridays Post.

The sentiments you have expressed, relatively to the qualifications which ought to be possessed by the Aids de Camp of the Commander in Chief, or Officer Commanding a seperate Army (to go no further) accord precisely with my own. And although I do not chuse to be under any engagement, lest something occur that would render promises embarrassing, I have no hesitation in repeating that I shall keep you in my Mind.

In the choice of my Aids, I shall add (in confidence) that several things must be attended to, Geographical, Political, &ca. which renders it quite expedient and proper, that whenever I am called upon I may take a full range of *all* the circumstances before me, unembarrassed by engagements, and govern myself accordingly.

The provisional Law for raising an Army of ten thousand men, is, as you know, contingent in its operation; and not having it at hand to refer to, I do not recollect what, or whether any provision is made therein for a Pay Master General. In the Law for augmenting the Troops no mention is made of one; and under this old establishment, I believe there would be nothing found in the Office of Paymaster to make it an object. At any rate, I do not suppose (or think it proper) that Military Rank is, or will be annexed to it; but if upon a consultation of the several Military laws which are in existence, at this time, and comparing them with my suspension of the choice of Aids de Camp, and after what I have said on the subject, the uncertainty on whom that choice may light you should

feel disposed to fill The Office of Paymaster General (if such there be) I will delay no time in making it known at the War Office.

It is too difficult, I conceive, to pronounce with certainty, on the strength of the French Party in the United States; that they are a well organised body I have *no* doubt; that they proceed systimatically I am equally well satisfied of. That they are more formidable on that account is certain. For a while, like a man stunned by a severe blow, and staggering with the affect of it, they were silent, but this silence was not of long duration; only until new devises could be contrived and consequent orders issue. for now, the Gazettes of the Bachites come forward with more boldness than ever.

That the great Mass of the People are beginning to have a right understanding of the *principles* on which our dispute with France is founded, notwithstanding the unwearied pains that are used to keep them hood winked; I am well persuaded, but I hear the strength of the inemical party will not be clearly ascertained before the dangerous crisis shall have arrived when most will be to be apprehended unless a good deal of exertion previous thereto is made by those who are friendly to the Constitution and the Government, for certain it is that the Agents and Partizans of France leave nothing unessayed to bring all the Acts, and Actors of Government into disrepute; to promote divisions among us; and to enfeeble all of opposition to the views of the Directory of that Country on the Rights, freedom and independence of the U. States.

I thank you for your kindness in offering to render me any Service in your Power on the other side of the Alliganies, but at present I have nothing that I would give you any trouble in. I wish you a pleasant journey and safe return, being Dear Sir etc.

## *To WILLIAM FITZHUGH[53]

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1798.

My dear Sir: My *present* want of a riding horse is great, but if I should be called to the field it will be much greater.

As I am much out of the way of seeing, or hearing of such as would answr. my purposes, especially in the latter case; and know that you are a good judge of the parts, and general symmetry of a horse of figure. You would do me a favour if such an one as hits your own taste should fall in your way to buy him for me. the cash to be paid on delivery.

In age, I should not be willing to exceed Seven years, eight at most; younger, but not under four last Spring would be better. For colour, I will not contend, but would prefer a *perfect* White, a dapple grey, a deep bay, a chestnut, a black, in the order they are mentioned. The Size and strength must be equal to my weight, which without the saddle may be estimated at 210 lbs. Being long legged, or tall, would be no recommendation; as it adds nothing to strength, but a good deal to the inconvenience in mounting.

Under my circumstances, I cannot limit you in price; but shall add, that I never expected to be Master of a *riding* horse that would cost more than four hundred dollars.

As I had no idea that Mr. David Randolph (being on a journey) would have parted with the horse he thought might have suited me, I took but little notice of him; which I have been sorry for since as he is not within reach *now*. I asked him however what such a horse would cost, he answered four hundred dollars, that fine horses were scarce and dear. Remember us in affectionate terms to Mrs. Fitzhugh and the rest of your family, and believe me to be as I sincerely am, always Yours.

[N.Y.P.L.]

[53] Of "Chatham," Va.

## MEMORANDUM[54]

Mount Vernon, August 6, 1798.

A Tract of Five hundred and eighty Seven Acres, as by Patent, bearing date the 30th. day of Octr. 1784, lying on the Ohio River in the County of formerly Augusta is valued at five thousand Eight hundred and Seventy dollars, be the quantity more, or less. It may be taken *now* at that quantity; or now be determined to abide by the quantity that shall be found therein if resurveyed.

This tract George Washington agrees to lease to Archibald McClean for the term of Years

The Rent is to be equivalent to the interest of the above mentioned sum of $5870 at 6 pr. Cent pr. Annum. the first of which is to become due and payable on the first day of Jany. 1800.

It is optional in the said Archibald McClean to become the proprietor in fee of the Said tract of 587 Acres, within Seven years from the time of granting the lease; he the said Archibald paying therefor the above sum of $5870 in Instalments of not less than $2 or 3000 dollrs. at a payment.

The year Succeeding the payment of each Instalment the Rent is to be reduced in proportion to the interest of the said Instalment, so paid.

If the said Archibald McClean shd. incline let the improved lot, on which he lives in the Town of Alexandria go in part payment the said George Washington agrees to allow him for the same whatever three disinterested Men shall value it at, each of the parties to chuse one of the Valuers, and the two so chosen to make choice of the third.

[54] Given to Archibald McClean. From a copy kindly furnished by Leander McCormick-Goodhart. The original, somewhat mutilated, is in Harrison County Court House, Clarksburg, W. Va., with the papers in the suit of Cresap vs. McClean in chancery. (See E. E. Prussing's *The Estate of George Washington, Deceased* (1927), chap. XXVII, for a history of this transaction.)

The Rents, until the Fee simple departs from the said George Washington, or his heirs, to the said Archibald McClean, or his heirs, are to be satisfactorily secured the latter to the former.

If Mr. McClean is disposed to make an *absolute* purchase of the land, in preference to obtaining it on lease, in the manner aforesaid, and will let his improved property in Alexandria go in payment valued as above, a Deed may be drawn accordingly, to convey the Estate in Fee. [And] for securing the balance at a period to be fixed, or by Instalments as can be agreed upon, with annual Interest until paid, of Six pr. Ct. pr. Ann. a Mortgage will be taken of the Land so conveyed in Fee.

---

This would be the easiest, and simplest mode of completing the business requiring other security than what is mentioned above; whereas Securing the Rents may be attended with more difficulty while the Fee simple is with held. But I am equally ready to execute writings to either effect. I am willing to allow the full value for your property, in the judgment of disinterested men, although I have set too low a price on my land in the opinion of a very judicious Gentleman (well acquainted with the land) whom I have seen since I concluded the Bargain with you.

## To ARCHIBALD McCLEAN

Mount Vernon, August 6, 1798.

Sir: The annual meeting of the Potomack Company requires my attendance in Alexandria today. It will be held, I presume, at Gadsbys; If so, I shall be there from ten o'clock until three and shall be ready to see you at any hour between: the earlier the better.

Enclosed is a Patent for the 587 acre tract (with a plat thereof on the back); and a memorandum of my understanding of our agreement; by which the writings are to be drawn.

Mr. Keith has usually done this kind of business for me, and I presume would draw the writing between us as accurately as any other but it is indifferent to me who the draughtsman is, if professional, and can be correct.

If a Lease is prefered to an absolute Sale, the usual covenants to enforce buildings; Planting orchards; Making meadow, Reentry in case of Non-performance, etca. etca. must be inserted; for although the priviledge of becoming the purchaser in fee in seven years is granted it is not less incumbent on me to attend to the Property while the right remains unalienated. To render it unnecessary hereafter, to see that these covenants are complied with, and to avoid difficulty in securing the Rents, were my inducements for suggesting the alternative of a final bargain, on the terms proposed in the Memm: but I repeat, that I am equally ready to execute the other. I am etc.[55]

## *To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 9, 1798.

My dear Sir: By the same Post which brought me your favour, began in Philadelphia and ended in New York the 1st. instant, I received a letter from General Knox dated the 29th. Ulto, in answer to one I had written him on the 16th. of that month. In confidence, and as a proof of my frankness and friendship, I send both of them to you, together with my reply of this date; which, after reading be so good as to return to me.

Giving you the perusal of this correspondence, supercedes the necessity of my going into further details on the subject of relative rank; except, if the Commissions are yet to issue, and

[55] From a copy kindly furnished by Leander McCormick-Goodhart, of Washington, D. C., who owns the original.

it be practicable at this time, and consistent also, I should not be indisposed (so far as my agency in the business extends, if that would satisfy General Knox) to make him the Senior of General Pinckney. But as the President is absent, and it might have been the understanding of the Senate that the latter should be first, the propriety of the change, unless it could be effected with the consent of Genl. Pinckney, might at least be questioned. Though, upon more mature reflection I do not see upon what principle he could object. I have a high opinion of General Pinckneys qualifications as an Officer, and his integrity as a Man, but under the impression I am that the Southern Hemisphere will be the grand theatre of action, I shall honestly confess that my primary object in gratifying him is, that he may come forward with all his force.

Your opinion respecting the unfitness of a certain Gentleman[56] for the Office he holds, accords with mine, and it is to be regretted, *sorely,* at this time, that these opinions are so well founded. I early discovered after he entered upon the Duties of his Office that his talents were unequal to great exertions, or deep resources. In truth they were not expected; for the fact is, it was a Hobson's choice. But such is the case, and what is to be done?

I am held in the most profound ignorance of every step that has been taken since he left this place; and but, for other letters which I have been obliged to have ready for this days Post, I should have written very seriously to him on several matters, highly interesting to me, if I am to be called to the field; and that which you have mentioned among the rest. I am not, at this moment, made acquainted with a single step that is taken to appoint an Officer or Recruit a man, or where the rendezvouses are. Numberless applications have been made to me,

[56] James McHenry.

to be recommended for Commissions, and such as appeared to have merit I forwarded, but know nothing of the Result.

Let me hope that you will be able to devote a good deal of your time to the business of recruiting *good* men, and the choice of *good* officers. It is all important. I will endeavour to impress him with propriety of requiring your assistance in these matters; and of the necessity of making you the full allowance of Pay, &ca. for these Services. By bringing you thus in contact, a thousand other matters will fall in of course. Delicacy, if matters become serious, must yield to expediency. The stake we play for, is too great to be trifled with.

Mr. Harper[57] has been presented to my consideration before, as an Aid de Camp, but as I shall have no use for my Military family until matters are more matured, I am unwilling to be embarrassed by engagements. My Aids, as you well know, *must* be men of business; and *ought* to be Officers of experience. Many, very many *young* Gentlemen of the first families in the Country have offered their Services; and all have received one answer, to the above effect. Indeed in the choice of my Aids, a variety of considerations must combine, political, geographical &ca. as well as experience.

What is become of Walker?[58] Colo. Heth has offered, and stands well in my estimation, without a promise. No Foreigner will be admitted as a member of my family, while I retain my present ideas; nor do I think they ought to be in any situation where they can come at secrets, and betray a trust.

Write me as often as you can, conveniently; and believe me to be what I really am, Your sincere and Affecte friend.[59]

[57] Robert Goodloe Harper, Member of Congress from South Carolina.

[58] Benjamin Walker.

[59] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Hamilton's letter of July 29–Aug. 1, 1798, to which this was the reply, is another of those letters which were removed from the *Washington Papers* by John C. Hamilton and placed in the *Hamilton Papers*. Some unknown person has carefully obliterated McHenry's name where mentioned by Hamilton.

## *To HENRY KNOX

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 9, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th Ulto has filled my mind with disquietude, and perplexity in the extreme; but I will say nothing in reply, intentionally, that shall give you a moments pain. Indeed from the tenor of your letter, it would seem as if nothing I could say, now, would be of any avail; after the open, candid and I think friendly communications in my letter of the 16th. of July, assigning reasons for what had been done which could not, I conceive, be construed into a supposed inferiority on your part by me; but as there are some things in your letter which appear to have originated in a misconception of circumstances, justice to myself makes it necessary to explain.

When I observe then, that the first knowledge I had of my own Appointment, nay, the first intimation that such a measure was in contemplation, was contained in a News-paper, as a *complete Act* of the President and Senate, accompanied with a few lines from the Secretary of War of equal date (4th. of July) informing me that he should be the bearer of my Commission, and the President's Instructions to make *some,* but does not say *what,* Arrangements. When with this information, I was left from the receipt thereof, until the arrival of the Secretary on the night of the 11th. with sensations occasioned thereby easier to conceive than describe. and when upon his arrival I was presented with a *pending* Bill for augmenting the Army of the United States, and informed at the same time that Congress would (as it actually did) adjourn the Monday following (16th). What was to be done? My earnest desire, often repeated, was, that Congress could be prevailed on, circumstanced

as things were, to vest a Power in the President to make Appointments in the recess of the Senate, rather than precipitate the Organization of an Army, that time might be allowed for a deliberate and harmonious consultation in the arrangement, (of the General Officers at least); and I offered to attend in Philadelphia myself, and send for Colo. Hamilton and you to meet me there, for this very desirable purpose: I even hastened, precipitately, Mr. McHenry's return, in hopes he might be back in time to accomplish this object: guarding however against the failure.

Under this statement which you will find correct, how was it possible for *me,* who have never in the remotest degree, directly nor indirectly, interfered in any matter of Government since I left the Chair of it, to have consulted *you,* previously to the nomination of the General Officers? and if giving in your name without, in the manner it was handed to the President (which seemed to be the result of necessity, proceeding from causes which have been communicated) is considered as a wound to your feelings, might I not complain upon ground equally strong and hurtful to mine? brought as I was, without the least intimation, before the Public, after it had been Officially announced to the world, and I hope, believed, that my Soul panted for rest; and that the first wish of my heart was to spend the remnant of a life worn down with care, in ease and contemplation? But left as I was by *this act* without an alternative, or a very disagreeable one, I passed it over in silence, from a conviction that if affairs are in the alarming state they are represented to be, that I was not to complain, or stand upon punctilios.

So soon as my nomination as Commander in Chief had been given in by the President, to which (according to Mr. McHenry's account) he was induced to do without consulting me,

by the urgency of his friends: I was inundated with letters, describing the crisis and the expediency of my accepting the Command.

Through the same channel, and from information I had no cause to distrust, no doubt remained on my mind that Colo. Hamilton was designated Second in command and first if I should decline acceptance, by the Federal characters of Congress; whence alone anything like a public sentiment relative thereto, could be deduced. On this authority the Paragraph which you quoted from my letter, was founded. I pretend to no other knowledge of the business.

The moment I had resolved to accept the Command, with the reservations mentioned in my letter to the President, now before the Public, my first care was to look for Coadjutors with whom I could be happy; and on whom I could place entire confidence, a second thought was not necessary for this, in the Majr. Generals for the Augmented Army; but to arrange them, with an attention to the various views the subject presented, was not easy.

In a free and candid strain, I frankly declared to you in my last the principle, and the *only* principle, which operated in the arrangement of Genl. Pinckney; but as I was more concise on this head as it related to Colo Hamilton, I will ask your patience while I detail the reasons which prevailed in his case.

1. Having already informed you of the evidence (as given to me) of the public wish that he should be second in command, if I accepted; and first, if I did not; it is unnecessary to repeat it. 2. Considering that the Military establishment of this Country was about to take a new form, and to commence as it were de novo, without any particular regard to an Army which had been disbanded near fourteen years, I conceived

that the President in the choice of Officers, and arrangement of them, would pay as much attention to circumstances, as to former rank. Not supposing then, that the latter would be viewed in so serious a light as appears by your letter, I shall readily acknowledge that I had recourse to no old resolves of Congress, nor did I recollect any, that would apply to the case. 3. I might, in some measure, have been led into this belief from what happened in consequence of the Insurrection in 1794. There you will recollect, that Genl Lee, who had never been more than a Colo. in the Army of the U. S., was put over the heads of Mifflin, Irvine, Morgan and Hand, all of whom had been General Officers in the said Service; Not because he was Governor of Virginia, for the moment he crossed the Potomac, which he was obliged to do to get at the Insurgents, his Office and powers as Governor ceased. 4. The same communications of the wishes that, Colo. Hamilton might be second in command, conveyed intimations also, that from his situation and prospects, having a large family and no certain dependence but his Profession, which was lucrative, something, as nearly adequate as the case would admit, ought to be offered to induce his acceptance; and the 2d. rank was proposed. 5. And though his services during the War were not rendered in the grade of a General Officer, yet his opportunities and experience, could not be short of those that did. And 6. adding these to the important trusts reposed in him in various Civil walks of life, he will be found I trust, upon as high ground as most men in the U. States.

I do not know that these explanations will afford you any satisfaction, or produce any change in your determination, but it was just to myself to make them. If there had been any management in the business, it has been concealed from me. I have

had no Agency therein, nor have I conceived a thought on the subject that has not been disclosed to you with the utmost sincerity and frankness of heart. And notwithstanding the insinuations wch. are implied in your letter, of the vicissitudes of friendship, and the inconstancy of mine, I will pronounce with decision, that it ever has been, still is, and notwithstanding the unkindness of the charge, ever will be (for aught I know to the contrary) warm and sincere.

I earnestly wished on account of that friendship, as well as on the score of Military talents, to have had the assistance of you and Colo. Hamilton in the arduous contest with which we are threatened: I wish it still and devoutly, as well on public, as on private account; for dissensions of this sort will have an unhappy effect among the friends of Government, while it will be sweet consolation to the French partisans, and food, for their Princpls.[60]

Lengthy as this letter is, I must ask leave to make an observation on the following passage in yours, which I hope, inadvertently escaped you. Speaking of Genl. Officers you say, if &ca.

> New England which must furnish the majority of the Army if one shall be raised, will be without a Major General or have the junr. one. Whether they will possess such a sense of inferiority as to bear such a state of things patiently, and whether their zeal and confidence will thereby be excited time will discover.

I hope in God that at no time, much less the present when everything sacred and dear is threatened that local distinctions; and little jealousies, will be done away. If the arrangement should go into complete effect New England, (Massachusetts alone), of three Major Generals, and three Brigadiers, for the

[60] Sparks omits a paragraph at this point, with the explanation that it was not "intelligible," meaning, perhaps, legible in the press copy; but said paragraph is as decipherable as the rest of the letter and is, of course, included above.

augmented Army, would have two Senrs. of each, and from New Jersey [illegible] ward there are four out of Six. What distribution more equal could be made with the strictest eye to locality, or Geographical refinement; may it not be asked, what advantage would a State, or States derive from the Senior, more than the junr. Major General, equal priviledges being attaching to all, on the same establishment? except that the Senior in the usual rotine has the *best* chance of being Commander in chief.

I will now close my letter, spun to an infinitely greater length than I expected when I began, with a solemn declaration, that if such powers as I suggested in the early part of this letter had, (as I think they ought, under the circumstances of the case) been given to the President, and the consequent meeting had taken place in Philadelphia, I should have been perfectly satisfied with any arrangement that would have produced harmony and Content; for nothing could be farther from my wish than to see you in a degraded point of view. How the Commissions are dated, I know not. I am, as I ever have been, My dear Sir Your sincere friend, and Affectionate Servt.

## *To LEWIS MURARIUS[61]

Mount Vernon, August 9, 1798.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favour of the 16th. Ulto. and thank you for your politeness in offering to become a member of my Military family. But as I do not mean to form One, until the time is near at hand when I shall take the Field; and then a variety of circumstances must combine in my choice. It is my wish that you may not forego any other prospects in expectation of being admitted therein I am etc.

[61] Of New York.

## To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1798.

My dear Sir: You will consider this letter as private and confidential. Dictated by friendship, and flowing from the best intentions. If then, anything should be found therein wch. may have too much the appearance of plain dealing, look to the motives, and manner of the communication, and my apology will be sought for in yr. candor.

From the moment I accepted my Appointment as Commander in Chief of the Armies of the U. States, I considered myself as nearly Allied to the Secretary of War, and entitled to particular attentions from him, notwithstanding I drew no pay, nor was acting in the field. It could not have been supposed, had it not otherwise been expressed, that I would be called to the Army in the moment of danger as ignorant of its formation, its municions, and every thing relating thereto, as if I had just dropped from the Clouds.

My Sollicitude, often and strongly expressed, relatively to the formation of the Army, could not but have impressed you with my ideas of its importance; but if stronger evidence was necessary, the offer I made to go, at this hot season, and in other respects inconvenient, to Philadelphia, would be conclusive. But what fruit has it produced? To this moment I am ignorant of every step that has been taken in the appointment of the Battalion Officers; for recruiting the Men, fixing the places of Rendezvouses, &ca.

With respect to the Quarter Master General, finding no mention made of one in the list of appointments, nor any thing said of him in your letter of the 18th. of July announcing them, I waited some time to see if any explanation of this matter

would be given, but finding none I wrote to you on the 22d of that month to be informed of the cause, and not until the first of this, was I answered. And with respect to the Adjutant General, I am, to this moment, unadvised of the result of Colo. Smiths nomination. I have heard indeed that Colo. North was appointed, and that it had been announed in the Newspapers; but this I have not seen, altho' I have examined them with an eye to it as accurately as my hurried situation would allow.

Having staked my life, my reputation, my fortune, my ease, tranquillity, and happiness, in support of the Government, and Independence of our Country; it is not a little interesting, and importt. for me to be advised, of the measures which you are pursuing to organize, and provide for the augmented force; for as that act is absolute, no delay can be admitted; and it is much to be desired that it may take the field with eclat, wch will not be effected without great exertion. And as it will not be supposed that the President well disposed, sensible and zealous as he is, can have many relative ideas in arrangements of this sort, more responsibility will attach to you; and as the multiplicity of matters, and burthen will be great, let me entreat you to call on the Inspector (allowing him full pay and emoluments) for assistance. The business of recruiting, in the result, belongs to his Department, then why not let it commence and be prosecuted agreeably to your *general* Instructions to him, under his auspices?

It is much easier at all times to prevent an evil than to rectify mistakes; it is infinitely better to have a *few* good men, than *many* indifferent ones: and Officers whose Recruiting emoluments depend upon *numbers,* will not be very scrupulous in their choice, without the fullest conviction that the Inspection of the men will be as rigid as the Instructions are strict. You would, besides, find him in your hurried situation,

extremely useful in a variety of occurrances, which cannot always be foreseen or provided against. I would have suggested a similar measure with respect to General Knox as it related more particularly to Arms, and the Ordnance Department but (under the rose for the present) he seems to be so much dissatisfied with the arrangement of the relative rank of the General Officers that I have no expectation of his serving.

Let me conclude by requesting to be informed, in what State the formation of the augmented Corps is? whether the applications for Commissions are numerous, and the characters good? What arrangements are made for recruiting? where the general rendezvouses are to be? Who are appointed to superintend them? What is the *present* state of your Military supplies, what the means, and what the measures for augmenting them? With much truth and sincerity, I remain etc.[62]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1798.

Dear Sir: The letter from Mr. Ames[63] to Mr. Bent, containing further evidence to his good character, I send.

The other letter from Mr. Carter[64] (who married a Niece of mine) though private, I send also but request it may be returned; what he says of a certain character, may be treasured up, but reported as coming from him.

His brother is an utter stranger to me, and therefore I can add nothing to what he has said of him. The family you know, are among the most wealthy and respectable in this State.

---

[62] McHenry's reply, dated August 25, from Trenton, is in the *Washington Papers*. He had been ill and on his recovery had removed his family to Trenton on account of the yellow fever in Philadelphia.

[63] Fisher(?) Ames.

[64] Charles Carter. He married Elizabeth Lewis, daughter of Elizabeth ("Betty") Washington Lewis.

My Nephew Lewis[65] might (but as he has never applied to me, I cannot say that he would) be glad of some appointment. He was an Aid to Genl. Morgan on the Western Expedition. I am etc.

## *To WILLIAM VANS MURRAY

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1798.

Dear Sir: I doubt not, but that you have already set me down as an unprofitable correspondent, and with too much truth perhaps; but not with as much culpability on my part, as appearances may indicate.

I have written you several letters, and having put one or two for Mr. Dandridge[66] under your covers, without receiving any acknowledgment of them, the presumption is, that they have fallen into other hands. Nothing however was contained in either of them that could entitle them to the *honor* of a place in the Bureaus of France, to which several of my *private* letters, it seems, have found a passage. And but for the impropriety of such conduct, and the deprivation, and invasion of anothers right, all might go; as I write or say nothing I wish to conceal from that Nation; My Politics being straight, and my views undisguised towards it, and all others.

In examining my file of unanswered letters, I find two of yours, dated the 9th. of October and 1st. of November among them. In acknowledging the receipt of which, permit me to thank you for the interesting communications which are detailed therein; and to express a wish, that in your moment of leisure, you would favor me with a continuation of matters so satisfactory to be informed of.

I should have wrote oftener to you, if, in retirement, I had found matter sufficient for amusement: but revolving days

[65] Lawrence Lewis.
[66] Bartholomew Dandridge.

producing similar scenes of domestic and rural occurrences, none interesting except to those who were engaged in them; knowing that all things of public concern, together with the Gazettes of different complexions were regularly transmitted to you, from the proper Department, and knowing also that you had friends near the fountain of Intelligence who were in the habit of corresponding with you, I conceived that details of the latter kind, from me, might be less correct and at best but second hand information; and therefore avoided giving you the trouble to receive it.

But new, and unexpected scenes opening upon us, and all my plans of my retirement likely to be marred by the Domineering spirit and boundless ambition of a Nation whose Turpitude have set *all obligations* divine and human, at naught, may in time to come, enable me to communicate some things more interesting than are to be found in the circle of my present perambulations. In doing which I shall always feel pleasure.

Little did I expect, when my valadictory Address was presented to the People of the United States, that any event would occur in my day, that could draw me from the peaceful walks and tranquil shades of Mount Vernon; where I had fondly hoped to spend the remnant of a life, worn down with public cares, in ruminating on the variegated scenes through which I have passed, and in the contemplation of others which are yet in embrio.

I will hope however, that when the Despots of France find how much they have mistaken the American character, and how much they have been deceived by their partisans *among us,* that their senses will return to them, and an appeal to Arms for the purpose of repelling an Invasion at least, will be rendered unnecessary. To be prepared for them, however, is

the most certain, and perhaps the least expensive mode of averting the evil. Neither they, nor their abetters here, expected I believe, that such a spirit would be roused as the occasion has manifested, amongst all classes *of our Citizens,* except the leaders of opposition; upon their obtaining correct statements of the treatment they have received from their *good* and *magnanimous* Allies. The difficulty under which they will find themselves, lyes in treading back their steps. But Envoy Logan[67] may be sent to keep them out of it; or, which is to the full as likely, to direct them into another course to obtain the same end.

Present me, if you please, to Mrs. Murray; in which Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis unite, as they do to yourself; and in remembrance to Mr. Dandridge, And be assured of the sincere regard and esteem etc.

## *To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 9th. was handed to me yesterday, enclosing one from Colo. Deakins, and a Tobacco Note as below,[68] for which I transmit a receipt.

I am ignorant of the principle, on which I am called upon to pay for picking a Tenants tobacco; but presuming it was proper, I thank you for having done it. And I pray you to add to the expence as much Tobacco as will make the Hhd. sufficiently heavy: and to deposit it with the rest in the hands of Mr. Peter, your father, to be[69] disposed of in whatever manner, and on whatever terms, he shall part with his own.

---

[67] Dr. George Logan, a self-constituted envoy from the United States to France.

[68]

| Mark No. | Gross. | Tare | Nett. |
|---|---|---|---|
| CM—1065 | 854 | 91 | 763 |

[69] Washington wrote this "de."

Enclosed is a Post note on the Bank of Columbia for One hundd dollars which I pray you to receive, and after deducting what I owe you, and what may arise in making the Tobo. Note (which is returned) sufficiently heavy, forward the balance, at a convenient time to Dear Sir Your etc.

Mrs. Washington, Nelly and Washington (now at home) are all well and join in love to Patsy, yourself and the Children. Genl. Spotswood and famiy are here.

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1798.

My dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 7th. instant, giving an extract of Mr. Nicholas's letter to you. With respect to the request contained int it,[70] I leave the matter *entirely* to his own *discretion,* with your advise, to advance or halt, according to the tenableness of his ground, and circumstances.

If he could prove, indubitably, that the letter addressed to me, with the signature of *Jno. Langhorne,* was a forgery, no doubt would remain in the mind of any one that it was written with a view to effect some nefarious purpose. and if the person he suspects, is the *real* Author or abetter, it would be a pity not to expose him to Public execration; for attempting, in so dishonorable a way, to obtain a disclosure of Sentiments of which some advantage could be taken. But Mr. Nicholas will unquestionably know, that if the proofs fail, the matter will recoil, and that the statement must be *full,* and not a partial one that is given to the Public; not only as the most satisfactory

[70] Sparks states that this was "A request to publish a statement of the affair respecting the fictitious John Langhorne;" but Bushrod Washington's letter of Aug. 7, 1798, is not now found in the *Washington Papers.* Sparks does not print the latter portion of the above letter to Bushrod Washington which begins: "If a *trick* so dirty etc."

mode of bringing it before that tribunal, but shortest in the result: for he will have a persevering phalanx to contend against.

It seems to me that he would be obligd to disclose the *manner,* in which his correspondence and mine began, and the *motives* wch. led to it; for until the discovery was made, and communicated by him to me, that *Jno. Langhorne* was a fictitious name, I had not the smallest suspicion thereof; but, on the contrary, viewed the production as that of a Pedagogue, who was desirous of exhibiting a few of his flowers. and after returning a civil, but short answer, I never thought more of him, or his letter, until the history of the business was developed by Mr. Nicholas. All this must appear; or contrivance would be retorted. I will only add that, as Mr. Nicholas has made you a confidant in this business, I shall acquiesce with pleasure in any steps he may take, that will bring me forward, with your concurrence. If a *trick* so dirty and shabby as this is supposed to be, could be *clearly proved,* it would, in my opinion, be attended with a happy effect at this time; but, on the other hand, if it should be attempted and fail, the reverse would be the consequence.

I little thought when I retired to the Shades of Private life, last year, that any event would happen, *in my day,* that could bring me again, on the Public theatre; but so it is; and the remnent of a life which required ease and tranquillity, will end more than probably in toil and responsibility.

Your Mother left us on friday; for your Brother Corbins, after giving us the pleasure of her's, and Nancy Washington's Company, eight or ten days. Corbins wife is much better, and hopes are entertained of her being perfectly restored.

Your Aunt and the family unite with me in best wishes for yourself and Mrs. Washington; and I am etc.[71]

[71] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1798.

My dear Sir: It was not (as you will perceive by the letter herewith) until after I had written my private, and confidential letter of the 10th, to you, that I was favoured with the details contained in your letter of the 8th. The receipt of which, and finding that my ideas accorded so well with the measures you had suggested, for the consideration of the President, filled my mind with exquisite pleasure: And it would be uncandid not to confess that, your silence, and my entire ignorance of what was doing with respect to the Organization of the Army, and Recruiting the men, produced very disagreeable Sensations. It must strike every one, that to meet veteran Troops, accustomed to Conquer, with raw men, quite untutured, and void of Discipline, would not be desirable.

I did not imagine that Majr. Tallmadge's expectations would have soared so high. To have commanded the Cavalry I should have thought would have been gratifying, and believe he is better qualified for *that,* than Adjutant General; not but that he *might* do for the latter, altho' it so happened that he was but little with the Army (being employed chiefly on detached parties) and of course less acquainted with a roster. It is much to be wished that Maryland could furnish a *good* character for Adjutant General. It is a respectable State, well affected, and gives not (that I see) an Officer of any consequence to the Army.

The enclosed letter from the Collector of New York to me, will shew what he has done with the tin box addressed to me. Some anxiety is felt concerning it; for as much, as it is supposed to contain a present (probably a valuable one) from an East India acquaintance of Mr. Laws, to Mrs. Law; and directed to me in hopes of insuring its safety.

I heartily and sincerely wish you a perfect restoration of health, and with very great esteem and regard am always Your Affectionate.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1798.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you I have received your letter of the 31st. Ulto. enclosing a Statement of the A/c. betwn us, and have also received the Pictures and Books in good order.

When I sent Doctr. Bartons Note to you, I accompanied it with information, that there was no other way of dealing with him than to obtain security for payment of the money at a future day, for if I was to bestow the epithet on him which he deserves it would not be a mild one. It is not the value of the money I regard, but to be imposed upon in such away by a man who was an utter stranger to me is somewhat vexatious.

Some money being paid to Colo. Pickering by Judge Addison, for land I sold the decd. Colo. Ritchie, I have requested Two hundred dollers thereof to be delivered to you, in discharge of my balance. I am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1798.

Dear Sir: The Messenger that carried my letters of the 10th. to the Post Office brought me your favour of the 6th, and yesterday I received that of the 8th.

It gave me sincere pleasure to find by the latter, that you had suggested to the President, prompt and decisive measures for Organizing and recruiting the twelve Regiments of Infantry, &ca., and the propriety also of requiring the Services of the Inspector General, and Major Genl. Knox, to aid you in arranging the details, and superintending the Execution of different

parts of your multiplied duties, occasioned by the business coming upon you *en mass.*

Without such aid, and subdivision, it would be impossible, in my opinion (in such an emergency) to carry the Act for augmenting the Army, into effect, with the precision and promtitude it seems to have been contemplated.

Any assistance I can give, consistently, to carry your Plans into effect, you may command with freedom.

It is extremely painful to hear that the Yellow fever has again made its appearance in the unfortunate City of Philadelphia and is spreading its malignancy, and it is with much concern I am further informed, that you have a return of your Billious complaint. I hope, effectual measures will be pursued to check the first; and that you are, or soon will be perfectly recovered of the latter. With very great esteem etc.

## *To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1798.

Dear Sir: If you, or Mrs. Stuart could, by indirect means, discover the State of Washington Custis's mind, it would be to be wished. He appears to me to be moped and Stupid. says nothing, and is always in some hole or corner excluded from Company. Before he left Annapolis, he wrote to me desiring to know whether he was to return there, or not, that he might pack up accordingly; I answered, that I was astonished at the question! and that it appeared to me that nothing that could be said to him had the least effect, or left an impression beyond the moment. Whether this, by thwarting his views, is the cause of his present behaviour, I know not. Enclosed is his letter and my answer. to be returned when read. We are as usual; and unite in best regards for you Mrs. Stuart and the family. I am etc.

[H. S. P.]

## *To REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER

Mount Vernon, August 15, 1798.

Revd. Sir: I know not how it has happened, but the fact is, that your favour of the 8th. of Novr, last year, is but just received; and at a time when both public and private business pressed so hard upon me, as to afford no leisure to give the "View of the causes and consequences of the American Revolution" written by you, and which you had been pleased to send me, a perusal.

For the honor of its Dedication, and for the friendly and favourable sentimts. which are therein expressed, I pray you to accept my acknowledgment and thanks.

Not having read the Book, it follows of course that I can express no opinion with respect to its Political contents; but I can venture to assert, beforehand, and with confidence, that there is no man, in either country, more zealously devoted to Peace, and a good understanding between the two Nations than I am, nor one who is more disposed to bury in oblivion all animosities which have subsisted between them, and the Individuals of each.

Peace, with all the world is my sincere wish. I am sure it is our true policy. and am persuaded it is the Ardent desire of the Government. But there is a Nation whose intermedling, and restless disposition; and attempts to divide, distract and influence the measures of other Countries, that will not suffer us, I fear, to enjoy this blessing long, unless we will yield to them our Rights, and submit to greater injuries and insults than we have already sustained, to avoid the calamities resulting from War.

What will be the consequences of our Arming for self defence, that Providence, who permits these doings in the Dis-

turbers of Mankind; and who rules and Governs all things, alone can tell. To its all powerful decrees we must submit, whilst we hope that the justice of our Cause if War, must ensue. will entitle us to its Protection. With very great respect etc.

## *To HENRY GIRD, JUNIOR[72]

Mount Vernon, August 19, 1798.

Sir: Having had time to reflect more at leisure on the application made to me yesterday by you and your brother, for a tract of land of which I am possessed in the Ohio, containing by the patent two thousand four hundred and forty eight Acs. I have determined to offer it to your father on the following terms. viz.

First. At ten dollars an Acre, provided it has nothing more than its situation, and the quality of its soil to recommend it.

Second. If more than these appertain, for instance a valuable Mill Seat; Ores of any kind, &ca. these shall be valued by disinterested men chosen by the parties, and be added to the above value, or

Third. If to avoid this trouble and uncertainty Mr. Gird would prefer a definite sum, I will (although it might be disadvantageous to me, and notwithstanding the price fixed thereon yesterday) take One thousand dollars in addition to the ten dollars an Acre.

Fourth. The Land shall be granted on a lease for Seven years, paying an Interest annually, and punctually, of Six per Centum pr. Annum durg that term, the first of which to become due on the first of January in the year Eighteen hundred, and the same sum, on the same day, in every year thereafter during the above md. term of seven yrs.

[72] Publisher of *The Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette.*

Fifth. It shall be optional in the said Gird, to be possessed of the said tract of Land in Fee simple, on conditions that he shall pay the whole sum of ten dollars an Acre, and the thousand dollars as before mentioned, within the said term of Seven years; but not in less sums than five thousand dollars at a payment.

Sixth. That upon the receipt of such payment, and every of them, the next annual payment thereafter, of Interest, shall be on the Balance of the principal Sum.

Seventh. Proper Instruments of writing may be drawn by a skilful professional man, to carry the true intent and meaning of the parties into effect.

Eighth. The regular payment of interest on the principal sum, until discharged, must be so secured as to give me no trouble in the collection. I mean upon whatever Balance shall be due, if payments are made.

If Mr. Gird is disposed to bargain on these terms, which I conceive are very favourable for him, the matter may be closed as soon as he pleases, and the sooner the better, as other offers are made to Sir Your etc.

## *To JACOB READ

Mount Vernon, August 19, 1798.

Dear Sir: The Mail of yesterday brought me your favour of the 13th. Instant.

For the flattering compliment you have been pleased to make me, therein, you have all my gratitude and thanks.

With respect to the supposed injury done Mr. George Izard, in the Organization of the *New* Corps of Artillery, I can say nothing; 1, because I had no knowledge of the arrangement; and 2, because I am unacquainted with the Plan by which the

President was governed in his nominations. It would be uncandid however not to add that, on a *general* view of the subject I am unable to discover wherein any injustice has been done.

It is not unusual, on the contrary the practice (with very few exceptions I believe) invariably is, that New Corps are brought in complete. They do not, for obvious reasons (among others the facility of raising them) resort to old ones for the Officers; except now and then to reward long or meritorious service, one or two may be introduced; and this as often proves injurious as beneficial, as the youngest Corps are first disbanded; and they, of consequence, thrown out of Service.

But Sir, if the principle under which Mr. Izard thinks his son is aggrieved, was to obtain, what would be the consequence? It must apply in all cases similarly circumstanced, or it would be deemed, and justly, a partial measure. If then the Subalterns in the *Old* Corps of Artillery conceive that they are entitled to Companies in the *New* Corps, before new Captains should be appointed, would not the Subalterns of the four Infantry Regiments now in Service do the same with respect to the twelve additional Regiments of Infantry about to be raised? the Captns. claim Majorities, and the Majors to be Colonels Commandant? Such a principle, were it adopted, would not fail to retard; if indeed not annihilate the Recruiting Service; But you will please to observe, my good Sir, that it is the *general* principle, not this particular case of Mr Izard, to which my remarks apply; although I must add, it is not so easy, in Military promotions, to make discriminations out of the usual routine, as may appear at first view.

Mr. Izard, it is true, during the time he was at the Military Academy at Mentz was acquiring useful knowledge in the line of his Profession; but it is as true that, while he was absent his Subalterns of the Corps to which he belonged were performing

*all* his tours of duty, than which few things give more discontent in an Army.

That Mr. Izard is an amiable and deserving young Gentleman I have not the smallest doubt, and I dare say would be an acquisition as an Aid de Camp, but as I shall have no occasion for Aids until I take the field, I shall make no establishment of my Military family (unless it be a Secretary) till that event shall arrive, or a period is fixed for it; then I shall endeavour to take a comprehensive view of characters that would suit me; unembarrassed by previous engagements; in doing which, a variety of circumstances must combine, many of them of more weight than gratifying the wishes of a friend, or my own inclinations.

Mrs. Washington is thankful for the kind remembrance of her by Mrs. Read and yourself, and unites with me in offering her best wishes and compliments to you both. With great esteem etc.

## *To ROBERT MORRIS

Mount Vernon, August 19, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your favour of the 8th. Instt. was received the 16th, and the purport of it shall be communicated to the Secretary of War by the Mail of tomorw.

In what state the organization of the Artillery and Infantry Corps are, under the late Acts of Congress, I know not. Not I fear in the forwardness they ought to be, to prepare, and fit them for the active Service they may have to encounter.

It is with extreme concern I hear that Philadelphia is again visited with the malignant fever. I hope neither you, nor Mrs. Morris will remain in situations exposed to the Infection of it. If it were practicable, we should be very happy if She and Miss Morris, and you along with them, could remove to this

place. Mrs. W. and Miss C: unite in every good and friendly wish for you and them, with Dr. Sr. Yr. etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1798.

Dear Sir: I was very glad to find by your letter of the 13th. instant[73] that you had got well enough to resume your seat in the Office. On this circumstance I sincerely congratulate you.

You must know as much of Mr. Hoops as I do, and have it more in your power to obtain correct information of his character and fitness for the place that is suggested; but from respect to Mr. Morris, and in justice to Mr. Hoops, I could not withhold the testimonial that is adduced in the enclosed letter from the former.

The devise (though not affixed) wch. you have conceived for the Colours ordered by Mrs. Washington is appropriate, and wd. answer I think very well. Mr. Laws Box arrived safe.[74] I am always etc.

---

[73] McHenry had stated "The devices for the colours directed for Mrs. Washington have not yet been furnished the painter. I have thought of a medallion of the President borne towards the stars by our Eagle with some characteristic emblems, but I have determined upon nothing." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[74] On Oct. 14, 1798, Martha Washington sent the following letter to Col. Charles Simms "or Officer Comm̃g the Silver Greys." It was drafted for her by Washington, which draft is in the *Washington Papers* and is as follows:

"Conformably to my promise, I requested the favour of the Secretary of War (supposing it was more in his line than any other to cause them to be executed properly) to have the colours which I intended myself the honor of presenting to the Company under your Command, to be made and sent to me without delay.

"About a fortnight ago they arrived, but in an unfinished State, havg. neither fringe nor Tassels. Of this Mr McHenry was informed, and requested to supply the deficency. His answer is just received, that the person who made them, has fallen a victim to the malignant fever which prevails in Phila.; unhappily to the interruption of all kind of business, but, that he would, as soon as it was practicable remedy the defect. He was asked too, if some mistake had not been made in sending Cavalry, for Infantry Colours; and in that case to forward as much suitable Silk as would accomodate them to the latter purpose, to which no reply has been made.

"Hearing that there is to be a grand parade on Wednesday, I send them up as they are, in order, that they may be completed, at my expence, in Alexandria, if there be materials or workmen to do it; of which you will be pleased to inform me, that Mr. McHenry may be advised accordingly."

## *To JOHN GASSAWAY[75]

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 20th. Instant, with other letters, were brought to this place at a time when I was not in a situation to acknowledge the receipt of them. A fever with which I was seized on the 18th. could not be checked before the 24th. at Night; and has left me a good deal debilitated.

I mention this circumstance as an apology for your not hearing from me at an earlier period.

As I shall have no occasion for a Military family until I take the field; and then, in the formation of it, shall have a variety of combinations to make, I mean to be perfectly free until that period shall have arrived, or is nearly approaching (except a particular case, or so, may occur) that I may be under no embarrassment.

I thank you for making a tender of your Services to me as an Aid de Camp and am etc.

P. S. Our Affairs have come to a crisis which I little thought could have happened in my day. This, and the evils with which we are threatned, will, I hope and trust, animate the spirits, and bring forward the Services of all the old and meritorious Officers of the Revolution Army, in defence of the Independence and Government of our Country.

## *To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, August 27, 1798.

My dear Bushrod: At the time your letter of the 20th. instant (with others) was brought to this place, I was not in a situation

[75] Of Annapolis, Md.

to acknowledge the receipt of it; and no Post has happened since, by which I could do it. That of tomorrow, of which I shall avail myself, will be the first which offers.

On the 18th at night, I was seized with a fever, of which I took little notice until the 21st; when I was obliged to call for the aid of Medicine; and with difficulty a remission thereof was so far effected, as to dose me all night on thursday, with Bark: wch, having stoped it, and weakness only remaining, will soon wear off; as my appetite is returning.

I learnt with much pleasure from the P. S. to your letter, of General Marshall's intentions to make me a visit. I wish it of all things. and it is from the ardent desire I have to see him, that I have not delayed a moment to express it; lest, if he should have intended it on his way to Frederick, and hear of my Indisposition, he might change his route.

I can add with sincerity and truth, that if you can make it comport with your business, I should be exceedingly happy to see you along with him.[76] The Crisis is important. The temper of the People of this State in many (at least in some) places, are so violent and outrageous, that I wish to converse with Genl Marshall and yourself on the Elections which must soon come.

The fictitious letter of *John Langhorne* may be had at any time. I do not send it *now,* beause if you come up it will do *then;* and we will let Genl Marshall into the whole business and advise with him thereon. for *good* or *evil* must flow from Mr. N—ch—s' attempt, according to his establishment of facts: Present my best wishes to Genl Marshall; My love (in which your Aunt unites) to Nancy; and believe me to be always Your Most Affect.

[76] John Marshall and Bushrod Washington visited Mount Vernon on September 3. They attended a public dinner, given by the citizens of Alexandria to John Marshall, September 5, and left Mount Vernon before breakfast, September 6.

## *To JOHN McDOWELL

Mount Vernon, September 2, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 13th Ulto. with the accounts, came duly to hand; and I thank you for the trouble you have had in paying and taking receipts therefor. The small balance of £1: 3: 5½ may, if you please, be given to Mr. Custis.

It was my intention to have written fully to you by the return of this young Gentleman to College, but the debilitated state into which I have been thrown by a fever, with which I was seized on the 18th and could procure no remission of until the 25th past, renders writing equally irksome and improper.

Were the case otherwise, I should, I confess, be at a loss to point out any precise course of study for Mr. Custis. My views with respect to him, have already been made known to you, and therefore it is not necessary to repeat them on this occasion; but it is not merely what the best course is, for him to pursue, that requires a consideration; but such an one as he can be induced to pursue; and will contribute to his improvement, and the object in view. In directing the first, to these objects a Gentleman of your literature, discernment and knowledge of the world, would be at no loss, without any suggestions of mine, if there was as good a disposition to receive, as there are talents to acquire knowlege; but as there seems to be in this youth an unconquerable indolence of temper; and a dereliction in fact to all study, it must rest with you to *lead* him, in the best manner, and by the easiest modes you can devise, to the study of such useful acquirements as may be serviceable to himself, and eventually, beneficial to his Country, hereafter.

French, from having become in a manner the universal language, I wished him to be master of; but I do not find, from enquiry, that he has made much progress in the study yet.

Some of the practical branches of mathematics, particularly Surveying, he ought, possessing a good deal of landed property, to be well acquainted with, as he may have frequent occasions for the exercise of that Art.

I have already exceeded the limits I had prescribed to myself when I began this letter; but I will trespass yet a little more, while I earnestly entreat that you will examine him, as often as you can make it convenient, yourself; and admonish him seriously of his omissions and defects; and prevent as much as it can be done without too rigid a restraint, a devotion of his time to visitations of the families in Annapolis; which, when carried to excess, or beyond a certain point, can not fail to unhinge his mind from study, and turn his thoughts to very different objects. Above all, let me request, if you should perceive any appearance of his attaching himself, by visits or otherwise, to any young lady of that place, that you would admonish him against the measure on account of his youth, and incapability of appreciating all the requisites for a connection, which in the common course of things, can terminate with the death of one of the parties only; and, if it is done without effect, to advise me thereof. If in his reading he was to make common place notes, as is usual; copy them fair, and shew them to you, two good purposes would be answered by it: 1. you would see with what judgment they were done; and: 2. it might be a mean to improve his handwriting, which requires nothing but care and attention to render it good. At present, all of his writing that I have seen, is a hurried scribble, as if to get to the end speedily, was the sole object of writing.

With very great esteem etc.

P. S. Knowledge of Book keeping is essential to all who are under the necessity of keeping A/cts.[77]

[77] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 25th. Ulto has been duly received. The list of applicants from the Southern States, and two large bundles of letters; from these I presume, came at the sametime, and in good order.

My last to you was dated the 20th. of August; two days previous to which I had been siezed with a fever which I endeavoured to shake off by pursuing my usual rides and occupations, but it continued to encrease upon me; when on the 21st. at Night Doctr. Craik was called in (who, it seems chose to have assistance) and on the 24th. procured such a remission as to admit the Bark. Since which I have been in a convalescent state; but too much debilitated to be permitted to attend much to business. And I mention it with no other view than to apprise you of my inability to enter so actively upon the duties you have suggested, as you probably have counted upon. I shall however, do all that the situation of my health, and circumstances will enable me, to answer your expectation if I should be finally charged in the manner you have suggested, to the President.

The wide expance, you must permit me however to add, which forms the Southern District, will render it very difficult to obtain correct information of characters; will require more time than is supposed; and will, after all, be liable to much imposition; as confidence must be placed in others who may be actuated more by local considerations than the general weal.

It is much to be wished that Genl. Pinckney was arrived,[78] and if this arrival should be North of this, that he might call here with your ideas, that I might with him arrange matters finally

[78] Pinckney reached New York from France on October 15.

relatively to the States of South Carolina and Georgia; and provisionally as they respect North Carolina and Tennessee. Kentucky, from its local situation, is not only remote from, but in a manner is unconnected with, any other State; and as you have taken no notice of the Northwestern territory, the presumption is that you contemplated neither Officers nor men from that Region.

Upon the principle that, the three great districts of the United States give each four of the augmented Regiments, I suppose it is meant that the several States composing these Districts should furnish a quota proportioned to its population; and on this principle, without regarding fractions, I shall proceed when ultimately instructed, unless you direct otherwise; but, for want of a general list of the Revolutionary Officers, to remind one of the Captains and Subalterns who have distinguished themselves in the late War, many of the most deserving and meritorious may be overlooked; for I have heard already of several coming under this description, who have declared their willingness to serve, but wait to be called upon, adding, that as their names, (and they presume characters) are registered in the War Office, they may be called upon if it shall be adjudged that their services are needful, and to be preferred. Upon this ground, if you suppose it probable that the Selection of the Regimental Officers for the Southern District will be entrusted to me, to bring forwd, I should be glad to be furnished with a general list of them; for the one you left with me, and you will recollect, comprehended the field Officers *only,* and of those only, who continued to the end of the War.

You have said in your letter of the 25th. Ulto. that "The Officers for the Cavalry are to be selected by the Lieutenant Gen-

eral of the Army;" but do not signify whether they are to be taken from the Southern District wholly, or from the Union at large. On this head I shall require explicit directions.

I have no doubt, that a body of fine Cavalry might be raised in the Southern District, if the price of the horses are not too limited; and that they would stand the Southern operations better than the Northern horses; and I believe a handsome Corps of Officers might also be had; but it remains with you to direct where both, or either, are to be taken from. Talmadge, according to your account (in a former letter, although I could perceive no reason for it, unless the promotion of Genl. Dayton[79] has raised his expectations) looks higher than the Command of such a Corps.

When I am furnished by the Superintendent, with a return of the Military Stores now on hand, and in train to be procured; I shall, agreeably to your desire, offer such observations thereon as may occur. In the meantime, I have no hesitation in declaring that your Magazines cannot be too well furnished with all *necessary* Articles of *foreign dependence;* the procuring of which, if the Country should be Invaded, will not only be rendered precarious, but they must come much higher. Those of our own growth, or Manufacture, we have more at command. And above all things direct the Keepers of your Powder Magazines to be attentive to the Powder; turning it often; and proving it frequently; otherwise there may appear to be a store, while there is *none* in fact, that is, none fit for use.

I have not been in a situation to examine the Printed Rules and Regulations respecting the Recruiting Service, transmitted in your last. I hope they are rigid, and pointed to good Men; for it is much better to have a few good Soldiers, than a multitude

[79] Jonathan Dayton, jr.

of Vagrants and indifferent one's; who, besides other imperfections, may desert their Colours in critical moments.

If any change should take place in settling the relative Rank of the Majr. Generals, I shall hope, and expect to be informed of it.[80] With much truth, I am etc.

## *To JAMES ATHILL[81]

Mount Vernon, September 4, 1798.

Sir: I had the honor to receive by Captn. Evelett, in the Brig Philanthropist, your very polite and obliging favor of the 21st. July, accompanying five Sheep, and a number of exotic Plants: of which the Captain appears to have been carefull, although a number of the latter have died. Those which have survived look lively, and probably will do well, as all possible care shall be taken of them.

This flattering testimony of your polite recollection of the hours I had the honor to spend with you at this place.[82] is grate-

[80] President Adams had written to McHenry (August 14): "In my Opinion, as the matter now Stands General Knox, is legally intitled to rank next to General Washington, and no other Arrangement will give Satisfaction. If General Washington, is of this Opinion and will consent to it, you may call him into actual Service as soon as you please. The Consequence of this will be that Pinckney must rank before Hamilton. If it shall be consented that the Rank shall be Knox Pinckney and Hamilton, you may call the latter too into immediate Service when you please. Any other Plan will occasion long delay and much confusion. You may depend upon it, the five New England States will not patiently Submit to the humiliation that has been meditated for them. If North declines the adjutancy, I am prepared, to appoint another and better." A photostat of this letter is in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

McHenry's "confidential and private" letter to Washington (August 25) stated that he feared embarrassment and delay from a disposition in the President "to have the relative grade of three of the Major Generals so altered, as that Knox shall be first and Hamilton last. I have reminded him of the grounds which induced him to offer their names in a different order to the Senate: suggested the consequences that might flow from an attempt at an alteration, at this time, in their relative grade; and reason, that their relative grade in the revolutionary army (on which General Knox relies for preference) cannot legally avail him. . . . What effect this may produce I cannot tell." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[81] Speaker of the Assembly of Antigua, West Indies.

[82] Athill was at Mount Vernon, Nov. 13–16, 1797.

ful to my feelings; and while I regret that the days you remained here were so few, permit me to add that, if induced by inclination or other motives, you should again re-visit the United States I shall feel happy in an increase of them; and shall always have pleasure in shewing civilities to any Gentn. you may please to introduce personally or by letter.

It gave me great pleasure to hear of your safe arrival in Antiqua; and it would have added to it, to have been told that the good health which, in appearance you carried from these United States had continued.

If there be Plants, or other things Sir, the growth or produce of the middle States of which you are desirous, and conceive they would bear the heat of the tropical Sun, I should have much pleasure in furnishing you with them. and although it is a fact well ascertained I believe, that the Woolly tribe of Animals change their Coating when ever they are removed to hot Climates, for to a course wool, and then to hair, yet as it may be curious to observe the gradation and time required for this process of nature I have taken the liberty of sending you a Ram and five ewes of the last yeaning, that if you are so disposed, the fact may be established under your own eyes.

Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis are grateful for your kind recollection of them, and pray you to accept their Compliments. I have the honor etc.

## *To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, September 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of yesterdays date was received last night; and I consent to Ship the 4 Hhds. of Tobacco which I have in the Warehouses at George Town, and the 2. at

Nanjemoy, in Mr. Carltons Ship, and to his friends in London; supposing them to be good men for they are strangers to me.

I shall rely on him to order Insurance thereon. The freight and Primage seems high, but if it is paid by Messrs. Wilson & Potts I cannot expect it for less, presuming I am not charged more.

I require no advance on the Tobo, but when the proceeds are known, I may draw for it in Goods. I am etc.

## *To ARTHUR CAMPBELL

Mount Vernon, September 8, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 20th of July, in behalf of the Officers of Washington County; and that of the 13th. of August have been duly received.

The lively sensibility expressed by the Officers of the Militia of Washington County[83] through you, as their Organ, on my acceptance of the Appointment to Command the Armies of the United States, cannot fail to make a pleasing impression on my mind: And I beg them to receive my grateful acknowledgments for the confidence they are pleased to place in my exertions to serve our Country at this eventful crisis.

I trust my fellow citizens will do justice to the motives which have again drawn me into public life at this advanced period, and when I had withdrawn in the fullest hope and confidence that I should pass the remainder of my days in tranquil retirement. But when we are threatned with the loss of everything which we hold dear as men and as Citizens, no circumstances of personal consideration should, in my opinion, withhold our

[83] Virginia.

exertions in the Common Cause; and I cannot forbear to express the pleasure which I feel on learning that the Officers of the Militia of Washington County know how to appreciate the value of their Independence, and that they are determined to support the Government of their choice against all aggressions. The same spirit, I trust, will not be wanting in every class of our Citizens.

I thank you, Sir, for the communication of your ideas (under date of the 13th. of August) respecting the Provisions which should be made in our Military arrangements *"to meet the force and extent of the Crisis."*

I am always pleased to receive the opinions and suggestions of those who have employed their thoughts upon subjects which may be useful to our Country, and I am sure that those who know me will do me the justice to believe, that I shall give a due consideration and a proper efficacy so far as is in my power, to whatever may be calculated to promote our common welfare. With very great esteem I am etc.

## *To THE INHABITANTS OF GREENE COUNTY IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mount Vernon, September 8, 1798.

Gentlemen: Having once more engaged in the arduous duties of public life, (after I had retired therefrom with the most ardent wishes and pleasing hopes that no circumstances would occur to call me from my peaceful abode during the few remaining years of my life) I cannot be insensible to the approbation of my fellow Citizens, And, while I thank you, Gentlemen, for your warm and friendly Address, permit me to observe, that I can take no merit to myself for any personal sacrifices

I may make in accepting the arduous and important trust with which I have been honored; for, when the Property of our Citizens has been despoiled, our Sovereignty encroached upon, our constituted Authorities treated with contempt, and our Independence threatned, can that man be deserving the Appellation of an American Citizen, who would suffer any motives of personal consideration to withhold his exertions at such an eventful crisis.

It certainly appears, Gentlemen, as you observe, that the mild and pacific policy of America has been mistaken for Cowardice, and a base desertion of our Rights. But I trust that the injured spirit of our Country will now be roused, and that we shall shew to the world that we can and will support our Rights and the Government of our choice against all aggressions, and that we will yield our Independence only with our lives.

To do this requires a spirit of unanimity which, I presume, will shortly prevail in every part of the United States, and that every virtuous Citizen will see the necessity of his exertions to preserve the invaluable blessings which we have yet in our power.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 9, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the first instant came duly to hand, and I beg you to be persuaded that, no apology will ever be necessary for any confidential communications you may be disposed to entrust me with.

In every public transaction of my life, my aim has been to do that, which appeared to me to be most conducive to its weal.

Keeping this object always in view, no local considerations, or private gratifications incompatible therewith, can ever render information displeasing to me from those, in whom I have confidence, and who, I know, have the best opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of facts in matters which may be interesting to our Country and essential for myself as its servant.

Having troubled you with this exordium and egotism, I do not only thank you for the full, and judicious observations relative to the discontents of General Knox, at being appointed junr. Major General in the augmented Corps, but I shall do the same for your further occasional remarks on this, or any other subject which may be interesting and proper for me to know; that I may thereby regulate my own conduct in such a manner, as to render it beneficial and acceptable to the Community, in matters which depend upon correct information not in my power to obtain in the ordinary course, without it [*sic*]

Immediately after my acceptance of the appointment with which the partiality of my Country had honored me, and making an arrangement with the Secretary of War, of the General Officers for the twelve Regiments; I wrote to General Knox, stating briefly, the *principle* upon which it was done; and I was not a little surprised to find in his answer an expression of great dissatisfaction at the measure.

To this I replied in a subsequent letter; and offered sentiments not dissimilar to those which are contained in yours, to me; with a view to shew him that, in the present Organization no other regard was had, or was intended to be paid to the Officers of an army which had ceased to exist fourteen or fifteen years, than merely by running over the list of them to be

reminded of those who were most likely to answer Public expectation in the formation of the new one which was about to receive an entire new birth; and in which no Officer of the old army could *expect,* much less *claim,* an appointment on any other ground than celebrity of character, established, or supposed; of which the President, agreeably to the Constitution, was to judge.

But General Knox, it would seem, views his junr. Station as a degradation, after having been the Senior of both Hamilton and Pinckney; that it is estimating his Military abilities at a cheap rate; and that it has been *contrived* to exclude him from the Service. In a word, from the tenor of his letter, he appears to be determined (inasmuch as the nominations were given in on the same day) to claim precedency under some old regulation of Congress; and if unsuccessful in the attempt; to decline the appointment of Majr. General altogether.

How the matters stands between him and the President; and what may be the ultimate decision of the latter, I know not; but I know that the President ought to ponder well before he consents to a change of the arrangement.

It was my earnest desire, that the appointments, unless compelled by necessity, should not have been precipitated; and to prevent it, if possible, I hastened prematurely the return of the Secretary of War to Philadelphia; offering (inconvenient as it would have been for me at that season) to set out on a day's notice for that place if this could be accomplished; knowing that a better view of all circumstances and better means of information could be had there than here; and of course a more deliberate arrangement cd. be made, when, probably, it might have happened that Knox would have been placed before Pinckney. Whether it be practicable to do it now, is questionable.

What in the name of Military Prudence could induce the appointments of White and Severe[84] as Brigadiers? The latter never was celebrated for anything (that ever came to my knowledge) except the murder of Indians; and the former for nothing but frivolity and empty shew and something worse: Having no suspicion that it was intended to nominate Officers for the Provisional Army at the time these were, I conceived it was time enough to contemplate characters for this Corps; and in going over the list of Field Officers put Mr. White down among those of New Jersey, merely as one that might be considered for that grade. To give two Brigadiers to that State when more important ones furnished none, and one of these too, not only without merit or pretensions, but dispised by the Revolutionary Officers who had served with him, is to me inconceivable. The certain consequence of it will be, that many of the most valuable of them (to the Southward, where he was best known) will not be his Juniors. As to Severe, as he is little known, little is said abt. him yet.

Interesting as a good Adjutant General is to an Army, and to the Commander in chief in particular, and sollicitous as I have expressed myself on this head, I never knew but from vague reports until the receipt of your letter, that Colo. North[85] had been nominated to that Office. Mr. Dayton[86] would, I believe, have filled it with ability; and he or Genl. Hand[87] (the latter from his experience in it) commanded my wishes. Colo. Heth would, I have no doubt, make an excellent Adjutant General; but, as the State of Virginia has already given several

[84] Anthony Walton White and John Sevier. They had been commissioned brigadier generals, July 19, 1798.
[85] William North. He had been commissioned adjutant general, July 19, 1798.
[86] Jonathan Dayton, jr.
[87] Edward Hand.

Officers of high rank and importance, and I expect will furnish the Qr. Master General (in Colo. Carrington; than whom, considering where the operations are likely to be; I believe a better could not be found in the United States) it would have an invidious appearance to propose him for that Office, and besides, he wishes to come into my military family as an Aid de Camp, and is the only one to whom I have given the least reason to expect it; having informed all other applicants, that I chuse to be perfectly free from all engagements until the time shall approach when I must take the field, and when many circumstances must combine in my selection of Aids. No member of this military family is yet engaged, except my old Secretary Lear, in the same capacity. I do not, nevertheless, discourage applications, as my wish is, when the period shall arrive to fix (as far as it may be in my power to ascertain the matter beforehand) on men of experience, accustomed to business, and of good dispositions. having regard at the sametime to geographical situations. With great esteem &c.

## *To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, September 10, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th. Ulto. was received in the usual course of the Post. That the City of Phila. should again be visited by that dreadful malignant fever which has made such impressions upon it heretofore, is matter of sore regret and that it should baffle more and more the skill of the Physicians adds poignancy to the misfortune.

The only intention of giving you the trouble to receive a letter from me at this time is to request that the one which accompanies it may be safely delivered to the President of the Board of Managers. with esteem etc.

## *To DAVID STUART

Mt. Vernon, September 10, 1798.

Dear Sir: As your Servant came late this afternoon, and requests to return early in the morning, I shall not be able to inform you of Mr. Anderson's wants; but no time shall be delayed in giving Mr King notice of them.

I have no return of my fever since you left this, and am regaining my lost weight fast.

I was sorry to hear of your indisposition, but glad to find you are able to ride about again. Mrs. W., Nelly and Washington (who I shall keep at home, and get Mr Lear, who I have taken as my Military Secretary to attend to his reading) are well, and unite with me in affecte. regard for the family at Hope Park. I am etc.[88]

## *To WILLIAM JONES AND BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE MARINE AND CITY HOSPITALS[89]

Mount Vernon, September 10, 1798.

Gentlemen: Among those who commiserate the afflicted Citizens of Philadelphia, I beg you to be persuaded that none do it with more sincerity, or with more feeling than I do. And the poignancy is very much increased by the declaration of the malignancy of the fever,[90] and difficulty of cure.

That I may contribute my mite towards the relief of the suffering and unfortunate poor of that place, I enclose two Post notes of one hundred dollars each. You will be so good as to inform me by a line of their getting to hand, which is all the notice I wish to be taken of the donation. I am etc.

[88] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Thomas F. Madigan, of New York.

[89] Of Philadelphia, Pa.

[90] Yellow fever.

## *To ALEXANDER WHITE

Mount Vernon, September 12, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8th. instant, with a plan of the Squares in the vicinity of the Capital, came to me on the 10th; and for the trouble you have been at in designating such lots as you think would answer my purpose, I feel much obliged.

From what you have said, and from the recollection I have of the ground, I give a decided preference to lot No 16 in square 634;[91] but the price I fear (upwards of $1200) will sink too deep into the fund which must be appropriated to the buildings; and therefore, if the following queries respecting lot No. 2 in square 731[92] are satisfactorily answered, I must content myself with that; as it is not with a view to accumulate property in the City, but merely to contribute a mite to the accomodation of Congress, that I purchase at all.

The facts I wish to ascertain are.

1. Is the high part of No. 2 in square 731 upon a level with the ground on which the road runs from the Capital to the upper ferry, over the E. Branch?

2. Is their any higher ground between it and the Eastern B: to obstruct the view thereof? and

3. is there much fall between the East and West corner of the front on Pennsylvania Avenue? Answers to these questions will enable me to chuse, without further delay.

As I never require much time to execute any measure after I have resolved upon it; if an Undertaker could be engaged in ye City, or its vicinity, to dig the Cellars and lay the foundation;

[91] This was the site on which Washington's two houses were erected. It was near the middle of the square, on the west side of North Capitol Street, between B and C Streets. A bronze tablet now marks the location in the Capitol Grounds.

[92] This lot was in the middle of the square bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, B, 1st and 2d Streets, S. E. The Library of Congress now occupies this site.

and the Commissioners would do me the favour to enter into a contract therefor, to the basement story, I could wish it to be set about and executed this fall (and the earlier the better). Any engagement they shall enter into on my behalf, shall be most religiously complied with. If an advance of money to carry on the work is required, it may be engaged; and as two houses joined and carried on together, will look better, and come cheaper than building them separately or at different times, I have determined to commence two, and if I can procure the means, complete both in the course of next summer.

I am not skilled in Architecture, and perhaps know as little of planning, but as the houses I mean to build will be plain, and (if placed on lot 16 in sqr. 634) will be adopted to the front of the lot leaving Allies or entries to the back buildings, I enclose a sketch, to convey my ideas of the size of the houses, rooms, and manner of building them; to enable you to enter into the Contract.

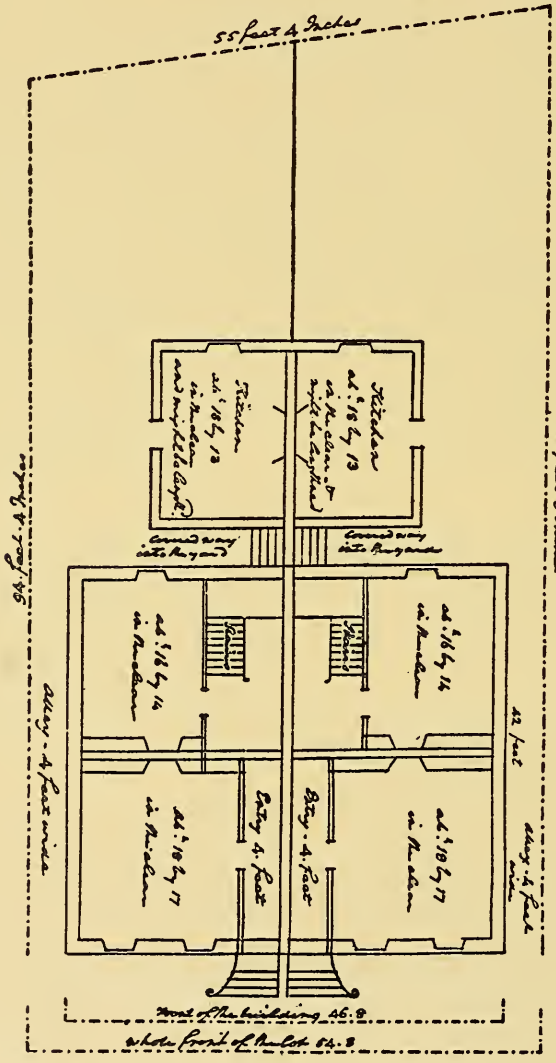
This sketch exhibits a view of the ground floor; the second, and third, if the walls should be run up three flush stories will be the same, and the Cellars may have a partition in them at the Chimnies. My plan when it comes to be examined may be radically wrong, if so, I persuade myself that Doctr. Thornton, (who understanding these matters well) will have the goodness to suggest alterations.

I shall make no apology for soliciting this favor of the Commissioners. To promote buildings is desirable; and is an object under present circumstances, of the first importance to the City. If then they can comply it conveniently, I persuade myself they will do so, but if they cannot it would be unreasonable in me to ask it, and I wave the request accordingly. With very great esteem etc.[93]

[93] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

# PLAN OF DWELLING HOUSES[94]

[September 12, 1798.]




[94] Enclosed in the preceding letter. From the original, sold at auction (1938).

## *To DANIEL McCARTY

Mount Vernon, September 13, 1798.

Sir: The last time I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. McClanagan and your Sister, the former, talking of Western lands, observed that you regretted not having accepted the exchange I had proposed of some of my Kanhawa lands for your Sugarland Tract. For me, it is fortunate you did not, as I have disposed of them on terms infinitely more advantageous, whether the purchaser is able to comply with his Contract, or not; In the first case I shall get Two hundred thousand dollars for my land, with an interest of 6 pr Ct. pr. Annum until the whole sum is paid within ten years, and in the second case, that is, not being able to become the purchaser within that period, in fee, I shall have my land well settled by Tenants. Thirty, late in the season as it was before any attempt was made to procure them, are now on the Land with fine Crops growing, forty more are engaged to go on this Fall; and as many as could be wished, ready to follow, as fast as Provisions can be provided for them. If I am not certain therefore of getting the money at the time stipulated, I shall be certain of having the land rendered infinitely more valuable by means of the Improvements, and interest in the meantime.

Since disposing of my Kanhawa lands on the terms just mentioned, I have sold the smallest of my tracts on the Ohio River for ten dollars an Acre, to be paid for in part with improved property in Alexandria, to be valued by three impartial and disinterested Gentlemen: One to be chosen by each of the Parties and the third by them [*sic*] two, and the remainder in Cash within Seven years with an Interst of 6 pr Ct. pr. Ann until discharged.

I have remaining on the Ohio River between the two Kanhawas three other tracts, viz, the uppermost one, about 15

Miles below Marietta, and opposite to the Village of Beipre [*sic*] (which is on the No West side) contains 2314 acres, the next about 15 miles lower down appertaining to which as I am informed is a very valuable Mill seat contains some 8 acres, and the third tract opposite to the great Bend in the river, and four or five miles below the last mentioned tract contains 4305 acres; and together, are bounded by the River Ohio for 13 miles nearly ...[95] They are I believe, all Intervale, and amongst the most valuable on the Ohio in the part they lye. There Situation, on many accounts is greatly to be preferred to those on the Kanhawa while the quality of the Soil I should presume, is equally rich and good. I have been in treaty for the middle tract at ten dollars an Acre, and a thousand dollars for the Mill seat; but as the person has been longer determining than he was allowed, and as I am assured by those who know the land well, that I may be certain of getting the price I ask, that is, ten dollars an Acre round. I felt my self under no obligation to wait longer for his answer; and therefore, after making known these details, in order not only to let you see what my own ideas are of the value of my western lands, but the ideas entertained of them by others, I ... unequivocal evidence that can be given, viz, the actual purchase of them.

I shall proceed if you are still disposed to remove into the Western Country, to offer you these three tracts, for your Sugarland tract entire. Provided upon a view of it I shall like your land; for I am quite a stranger to it, allowing you to do the same ... before any margin is closed. You may marvel at the small quantity (considering where it lyes) I offer for yours; but persuaded as I am that I offer a full equivalent in *value* I can offer no more. I have 3000 Acres on the No. Wt. side of the Ohio, in the neighbourhood of Cincinnati, which if you incline

[95] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [ ... ] are illegible.

to . . . with the land on which you live and we can agree on terms, may go also in . . . which would . . . out of the Western Country. With esteem etc. [NY.P.L.]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, September 14, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 7th. instt.[96] from Trenton is before me; and no plan is yet decided on that I can discover, for recruiting the augmented force, or even for appointing the Officers therefor.

It is for the Executive to account for this delay. Sufficient it is for me to regret, and I do regret it, sorely; because that spirit and enthusiasm which was inspired by the Dispatches from our Envoys, that resentment which was roused by the treatment of our Commissioners by the Directory, and the demands which were made on them as a preliminary to Negotiation by the latter, are evaporating fast; and the Recruiting Service, which might have been successful (of the best men) a month ago may be found very difficult a month hence (of the worst kind). The law passed before the middle of July, and was positive; and the middle of September has produced no fruit from it. This, to *me,* is inconceivable!

I must once more too, my dear McHenry, request that your correspondence with me, may be more full and communicative. You have a great deal of business I shall acknowledge; but I scruple not to add, at the sametime, that much of the

[96] McHenry's letter, after rejoicing at Washington's recovery, said: "The President is determined to place Hamilton last and Knox first. I have endeavoured all in my power to preserve your arrangement, but without effect. You shall be informed in a short time of the course of the business. I know not how it will be received by Hamilton, and can only hope, that he will not refuse to serve."

important and interesting part of it will be to be transacted with the Commander in Chief of the Armies of the U. States, from whom there ought to be no concealment, or want of information. Short letters therefore, taking *no notice* of suggestions, or queries, are unsatisfactory and distressing. Considering the light in which I think my sacrifices have placed me, I should expect more attention from the *Secretary of War,* but from Mr. McHenry as a friend and Coadjutor, I certainly shall look for it. Compare then my letter to you of the 3d instt. which I wrote in much pain, from the debilitated state into which the fever had thrown me, with your acknowledgment thereof dated the 7th, and judge yourself whether I cd. derive any satisfaction therefrom, on the score of business. Nor to this moment, although you know my sollicitude respecting the General Staff of the Army, and my *asking* the question (in one of my letters) in direct terms, what truth there was in the Report of Colo. North's nomination to the Office of Adjutant General, has there been the least notice taken of the matter since.

I will defer saying any thing on the President's *new* arrangement of the three Major Generals until you shall have communicated the result of Colo Hamiltons answer to me.

But, in the name of the Army, what could have induced the nomination of Walton White to the rank of Brigadier, after the State of New Jersey had been complimented with one [*sic*] Brigadier, and other States of more importance had received none? I formerly asked the same question with respect to Severe, to which no reply was made.

Whites name was placed in the list of Field Officers (for New Jersey) *merely* as one that might be considered in that grade when the general organization came on; but I had no idea when you left this place, that General Officers would be *appointed* at the time they were, for the Provisional Army;

and taking it for granted that it was a work for after consideration, I bestowed no thought thereon. Of all the characters in the Revolutionary Army, I believe one more obnoxious to the Officers who composed it could not have been hit upon for a Genl. Officer than White, especially among those to the Southward where he was best known, and celebrated for nothing but frivolity, dress, empty shew and something worse; in short for being a notorious L——r. This appointment will, I am told, exclude many valuable Officers who will not serve as his juniors. As to Severe, the only exploit I ever heard of his performance, was the *murder* of Indians.

What measures, if any, are pursuing to provide Small Arms I know not; nor of what sort or length, they are intended to be; my opinion is that both Musket and Bayonet ought to be full as long as those with whom we expect to contend, to give confidence to the Soldiery; and it is a matter deserving consideration whether the latter ought not to resemble the dagger, more than those wch. have been in common use with us.

If these, if the new invented artillery of G. Britain at the Cannon works in Scotland, if the horse artillery; In short, if any other articles of foreign manufacture are needed, not a moment is to be lost in the Importation: Besides their coming much higher after hostilities shall have commenced, the obtaining them *at all* will be attended with hazard and delay.

I have written you a free and friendly letter. It is intended, and I hope will be received in that light, from, My dear Sir Your sincere friend, &c.

## *To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, September 14, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th. came to my hands yesterday. Two causes, indeed three, prevented my answering the first,

after your return to New Post sooner; namely, debilitated health, occasioned by the fever, wch. deprived me of 20 lbs of the weight I had, when you and I were at my Mill Scales, and rendered writing irksome; the expectation of hearing from you again, relative to the Carpenter and Farmer, to whom you informed me, you had written; and the daily expectation of hearing from Rawlins, who had been informed that if he could forward satisfactory recommendations of his qualifications, to make a good Overseer, that he would be employed by me in that character. These reasons must apologize for your not hearing from me sooner.

By the same Mail that brought me your letter of the 11th. Rawlins sent me satisfactory testimonials of his fitness for my purpose, of course I stand engaged to him; but I have yet one place certain, perhaps two, requiring Overseers: but not at the advanced wages your Overseer asks, viz £50, &c. These are my home house, which requires an active, stirring, and spirited man; but not an ill-tempered or severe one. The other, in which I have been in some doubt, is what I call Dogue run Farm (where the Octagon Barn and treading floor is). I could not well afford more than £40, and the usual allowance of Provisions for the latter; and £35 is the most I ever gave for the former, and seldom more than £30. A single man would suit the home house best, would be cheaper to me, and he himself would live much better, in as much as he would eat of the Provisions that went from my table with the Housekeeper and other hired people about it: on the other hand, a married man would be prefered for Dogue run.

The reason why I doubted about employing an Overseer at the latter Farm, is, that as Union and Dogue run Farms are under one Overseer this year, and the latter conducted in a great measure by the foreman, I had some thoughts of entrusting it

solely to him next year, under the direction of the Steward, but when I perceive but too clearly that Negros are growing more and more insolant and difficult to govern, I am more inclined to incur the expense of an Overseer than to hazard the management, and peace of the place to a Negro; provided I can get a good Overseer on moderate terms: and why *any of them* should think of an *increase* of wages when the produce by which they are to be paid is reduced to half price, and taxes to their Employer (wch. they will not feel) are becoming very high, is to me inconceivable, for these causes I am *lowering* the wages of my Farms.

I mention these things to possess you of my ideas relative to these matters, but will add, notwithstanding, that I will keep one of the two places before mentioned open until you hear from Richard Rhodes, and learn his terms, if he will come to me at all. I think he would have a better opportunity of displaying his Knowledge and skill as a farmer at Dogue run (which is really a good Farm) than at the Mansion, where there is nothing done by the hands that are kept there but jobbing, and running from one thing and from one place to another; and for overlooking this Farm, I would stretch the wages to £45. though I should hope to get him for £40. And if he declines coming altogether, or asks higher wages, I will, in that case, offer the same lay, for the same place, to your Overseer. But if Rhodes accepts, and your Overseer will come to the Mansion house for £40 (which is ten pounds more than I had intended) I will allow him that sum, which I am persuaded would be better and more profitable to him (if a single man, as I understood from you he was) than £50 at a separate farm, where he would have to find himself many small, though expensive articles from which he would be exempt by eating at my second Table with the Housekeeper.

So much for your Overseer and Rhodes, I must add however, that both must decide immediately: Yea or Nay, of which you will be so good as to inform me without delay, as others are offering (said to be good) which I may also miss, the season getting late for valuable Overseers to be disengaged.

From the character you have received of Brookes (the Carpenter) I have no hesitation in requesting that he may be engaged immediately, and I did not care how soon he would come up; for as he is spoken of as a complete Joiner, I have work enough for him in *that way* before the time of the present Overlooker of my Carpenters expires; which will be about the first of November. I go, in this case, upon the supposition that Brookes is a single man. If on the contrary he is a married one his wife cannot be brought here (altho' he might come himself immediately) until my other Carpenter moves his family away, and the house in which they live, is given up. If he is single, he wd. not live in that but in one of the houses in my Yard, and eat, as before mentioned, with the Housekeeper and others.

You will oblige me very much by having *all these matters* adjusted as soon as possible, and by informing me of the result; that I may be placed upon a certainty, and conduct myself accordingly. As it will not be in my power to hold those, who offer here, in suspence more than a few days longer.

You forgot to leave me the names and grades of those Officers whose celebrity were Known in the Revolutionary War; and by expecting it, I did not charge my memory with them, and have forgot the names of those you did mention.

I have had no return of my fever, and am recovering my flesh fast, nearly a pound, and a half a day; at which rate if I should hold it for a twelve month I shall be an overmatch for Major Willis.[97]

[97] Francis(?) Willis.

We were very glad to hear that you got safe home in the extreme hot weather you travelled from hence.

Mrs. Washington, Nelly and Washington Custis are all well, and unite in best regards and wishes for your self, Mrs. Spotswood, and the family, with Dear Sir, &c.

PS. To insure this letter's getting to you without any delay at the Post Office, I have requested Mr. Parks to send it to you by Express.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your confidential letter, dated Trenton the 10th Instant, with its enclosures, has been duly received. The latter are returned. The contents of them have filled my mind with much disquietude and embarrassment; but it is impossible for me to make any move, in consequence, at this time, from the want of *Official* ground; without betraying your confidential communication.

I can perceive pretty clearly however, that the matter is, or very soon will be brought, to the alternative of submitting to the Presidents forgetfulness of what *I* considered a compact, or condition of acceptance of the Appointment with which he was pleased to honor me, or, to return him my Commission. And as that compact was ultimately, and at the time, declared to him *through you,* in your letter written from this place, and the strong part of it inserted *after* it was first drawn, at my request to avoid mis-conception, I conceive I have a right, and accordingly ask, to be furnished with a copy of it.

You will recollect too, that my acceptance being conditional, I requested you to take the Commission back, that it might be

restored, or annulled, according to the Presidents determination to accept, or reject, the terms on which I had offered to serve; and that, but for your assuring me, it would make no difference whether I retained or returned it, and conceiving that the latter might be considered as an evidence of distrust it would have been done. Subsequent events, evince that it would have been a measure of utility; for though the case *in principle* is the same, yet such a memento of the fact could not so easily have been forgotten or got over.

After the declaration in the Presidents letter to you, of Augt. 29th.[98] (which is also accompanied with other sentiments of an alarming nature) and his avowed readiness to take the responsibility of the measure upon himself, it is not probable that there will be any departure from the resolution he has adopted; but I should be glad, notwithstanding, to know the result of the Representation made by the Secretaries,[99] as soon as it comes to hand. And, if there is no impropriety in the request, to be gratified with a sight of the Memorial also. I am &c.

[98] Printed in Charles Francis Adams's edition of Adams's *Works* as follows: "My opinion is and has always been clear, that as the law now stands, the order of the nomination or of recording has no weight or effect, but that officers appointed on the same day, in whatever order, have a right to rank according to antecedent services. I made the nomination according to the list presented to me by you, from General Washington, in hopes that rank might be settled among them by agreement or acquiescence, believing at the time, and expressing to you that belief, that the nomination and appointment would give Hamilton no command at all, nor any rank before any Major-General. This is my opinion still. I am willing to settle all decisively at present (and have no fear of the consequences) by dating the commissions, Knox on the first day, Pinckney on the second, and Hamilton on the third. If this course is not taken, and the commissions are all made out on the same day, I tell you my opinion is clear that Hamilton will rank after Hand, and, I fear, even after Lee . . . the order of the names in the nomination and record was of no consequence. . . . The power and authority are in the President. I am willing . . . to be responsible for the exercise of it. All difficulties will in this way be avoided. But if it is to be referred to General Washington, or to mutual and amicable accommodation among the gentlemen themselves I forsee it will come to me at last after much altercation and exasperation of passions, and I shall then determine it exactly as I should now, Knox Pinckney and Hamilton. There has been too much intrigue in this business both with General Washington and me; if I shall ultimately be the dupe of it, I am much mistaken in myself."

[99] The representation was made by Wolcott alone to the President.

P. S. If you see no impropriety in the measure, and do not object to it, it would be satisfactory to me to receive a copy of the Powers, or Instructions from the President under which you acted when here.

## To JOHN McDOWELL

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1798.

Sir: The enclosed was written at the time of its date, and, with Mr. Custis, I expected would have left this the next morning for St. John's college; but although he professed his readiness to do whatever was required of him, his unwillingness to return was too apparent to afford any hope that good would result from it in the prosecution of his studies. And, therefore, as I have now a gentleman living with me who has abilities adequate thereto, will have sufficient leisure to attend to it, and has promised to do so accordingly, I thought best, upon the whole, to keep him here.

He returns to Annapolis for the purpose of bringing back with him such articles as he left there, and discharging any accounts which may have remained unpaid. With great esteem etc.[1]

## *To JOHN FRANCIS[2]

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of yesterdays date, was received by me today.

It is my intention to build two houses on an elevated lot, not far from the Capital, but not on so large a scale as you contemplate; and I certainly shall complete them in time for Congress; as I am never long in executing a measure I have once resolved on.

[1] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington.*
[2] Of Philadelphia, Pa.

The ground work of my plan may be seen in the hands of Mr. White, or Doctr. Thornton; from whence you will be enabled to form an opinion yourself, of the number of Boarders they will accomodate, as there will be three flush stories in each building, besides Garret Rooms for Servants. If these buildings would suite you, there is little doubt of their being ready in time. I am etc.[3]

## *To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1798.

Dear Sir: As the Season is far advanced for *good* Overseers to be disengaged, and as you had heard nothing from Richard Rhodes at the date of your last, Septr. the 16th, and a man in your neighborhood one —— Garrett, Overseer for a Mr. Fontain Murray at a place called White Plains near Fredericksburgh, has been strongly recommended to me by Mr. Batton and others, and who *was* willing to come to me, but informed I was supplied. Now, to avoid further delay I have desired Mr. Anderson to write to Garrett, which letter is enclosed, and left open for your perusal; to be sent to him or not, according to the Advice you may have received from Rhodes. If the latter declines coming, or requires higher wages than I mentioned in my last, in that case, you will oblige me by sending Anderson's letter to Garrett. On the other hand, if Rhodes positively accepts, on the terms mentioned, Mr. Anderson's letter may be destroyed, or returned to me: My object you will readily perceive is to be placed upon a certainty; and as soon as it can be done.

I shall depend upon your Overseer, Roger Farril, for my Mansion house concern; and Brookes Joiner, to overlook my

[3]From a photostat of the original through the kindness of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

Carpenters. If you have heard from the latter, since my acceding to his terms, be so good as to let me know at what time I may expect him to be here; as his services, as a Joiner, are immediately necessary. What age do you take him to be?

I thank you for the information you have been so kind as to give me respecting the characters of the officers in the Revolutionary Army; and shall do the same for your characters of the young Gentlemen who have never been in Service and are desirous of it; as it is my wish to see Corps formed of the best materials, but it wd. be useless to begin with Gentlemen under age, as I believe it is a rule at the War Office, to Commission none below that knowingly.

Believing, as I firmly do, that the opposers of Government will stick at nothing to injure it; I can readily conceive the probability of the Plan you have suggested; but I hope, and trust, they will be disappointed in that as they have been in all their other nefarious schemes.

I thank you, and the rest of the family at New Post, for your kind congratulations on my perfect recovery; and we offer ours on the safe arrival of yr. Son John, who has so often escaped the fraternal *squeezes* of our *magnanimous friends*. Our best regards are presented to you all, and I am etc.

PS. Since writing the aforegoing letter I have received your favour of the 23d. Instt. from the Post Office: but the contents thereof rendering no alteration necessary, I send it as it is, with a request, that as you have not heard from Rhodes, that you would be so good, instead of sending the letter of Mr. Anderson to Garrett, that you wd. send for the latter to come to you, and deliver it yourself, this will enable you to know Garretts determination; without which you would be ignorant, and consequently more at a loss for an answer to Rhodes, if he should come to you *after* Andersons letter goes to Garrett. Whereas, if

the latter accepts the offer made him by the former, the matter is finished as it respects Rhodes. On the contrary a conditional agreement with Rhodes and speedy advice thereof to me will bring the affair at once to a point with him. Yours as before.[4]

## *To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1798.

My dear Sir: I have seen the correspondence between the President of the United States and the Secretary of War, on the subject of the relative rank of the three Major Generals first appointed. But as it was given in confidence, unaccompanied with an Official letter, I had no ground on which I could proceed, without betraying that confidence. I have therefore written for an official account of the Presidents determination,[5] as the foundation of the representation I propose to offer him on this occasion.

Until the result of this is known I hope you will suspend a final decision, and let matters remain in Statu quo till you hear again from Your Affectionate, &c.[6]

## *To REVEREND G. W. SNYDER[7]

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1798.

Sir: Many apologies are due to you, for my not acknowledging the receipt of your obliging favour of the 22d. Ulto, and for not thanking you, at an earlier period, for the Book[8] you had the goodness to send me.

---

[4] From a photostat of the original in Cornell University Library.
[5] See Washington's letter to the President of the United States, Sept. 25, 1798, *post.*
[6] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[7] Of Fredericktown (now Frederick), Md.
[8] *Proofs of a Conspiracy &c,* by John Robison.

I have heard much of the nefarious, and dangerous plan, and doctrines of the Illuminati, but never saw the Book until you were pleased to send it to me.[9] The same causes which have prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your letter have prevented my reading the Book, hitherto; namely, the multiplicity of matters which pressed upon me before, and the debilitated state in which I was left after, a severe fever had been removed. And which allows me to add little more now, than thanks for your kind wishes and favourable sentiments, except to correct an error you have run into, of my Presiding over the English lodges in this Country. The fact is, I preside over none, nor have I been in one more than once or twice, within the last thirty years. I believe notwithstanding, that none of the Lodges in *this* Country are contaminated with the principles ascribed to the Society of the Illuminati. With respect I am &c.

## *To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1798.

Sir: With all the respect which is due to your public station, and with the regard I entertain for your private character, the following representation is presented to your consideration. If in the course of it, any expression should escape me which may appear to be incompatible with either, let the purity of my intentions; the candour of my declarations; and a due respect for my own character, be received as an apology.

The subject on which I am about to Address you, is not less delicate in its nature, than it is interesting to my feelings. It is the change which you have directed to be made in the relative

[9] In a letter from Snyder (Aug. 22, 1798, which is in the *Washington Papers*), it is stated that this book "gives a full Account of a Society of Free-Masons, that distinguishes itself by the Name of 'Illuminati,' whose Plan is to overturn all Government and all Religion, even natural."

rank of the Major Generals, which I had the honor of presenting to you, by the Secretary of War; the appointment of an Adjutant General *after* the first nomination was rejected; and the *prepared* state you are in to appoint a third, if the second should decline, without the least intimation of the matter to me.

It would have been unavailing, *after* the nomination and appointment of me to the Chief command of the Armies of the United States (without any previous consultation of my sentiments) to have observed to you the delicate situation in which I was placed by that act. It was still less expedient, to have dwelt more than I did, on my sorrow at being drawn from my retirement; where I had fondly hoped to have spent the few remaining years which might be dispensed to me, if not in profound tranquillity, at least without public responsibility. But if you had been pleased, previously to the nomination, to have enquired into the train of my thoughts upon the occasion, I would have told you with the frankness and candour which I hope will ever mark my character, on what terms I would have consented to the nomination; you would then have been enabled to decide, whether they were admissible or not.

This opportunity was not afforded, *before* I was brought to public view. To declare them *afterwards,* was all I could do, and this I did, in explicit language to the Secretary of War, when he honoured me with your letter of the 7th. of July; showed me his powers; and presented the Commission. They were, that the General Officers, and General Staff of the Army should not be appointed without my concurrence. I extended my stipulations no farther, but offered to give every information, and render every service in my power, in selecting good Officers for the Regimts.

It would be tedious to go into all the details which led to this determination; but before I conclude my letter, I shall take the

liberty of troubling you with some of them. Previously to the doing of which, however, let me declare, and I do declare in the most unequivocal manner, that I had nothing more in view in making this stipulation than to insure the most eligable characters for these highly responsible Offices; conceiving that my opportunities both in the Civil and Military administration of the affairs of this Country, had enabled me to form as correct an opinion of them as any other could do.

Neither the Secretary of War nor myself, entertained any doubt from your letters to me, and Instructions to him, that this was the meaning and object of his Mission. Unwilling however, to let a matter of such serious importance to myself remain upon uncertain ground, I requested *that* Gentleman to declare this in *his official letter to you* (supposing, as was the case) that the one I should have the honor of writing to you, might be laid before the Public, and that to incumber it with stipulations of that sort, would be improper. Nay more, as the acceptance was conditional, and you might, or might not be disposed to accede to the terms, I requested him to take the Commission back, to be annulled, or restored, according to your conception of the propriety, or impropriety of them. His remark upon this occasion was, that it was unnecessary, inasmuch as, if you did not incline to accept my services upon the condition they were offered, you would be under the necessity of declaring it, whilst on the other hand silence must be construed into acquiescence. This consideration, and believing that the latter mode would be most respectful, as the other might imply distrust of your intentions arrested that measure.

This, Sir, is a true, candid and impartial statement of facts. It was the ground on which I *accepted* and *retained* the Commission; and was the authority on which I proceeded to the arrangement that was presented to you by the Secretary of War.

Having *no idea* that the General Officers for the Provisional army would be nominated at the time they were, I had not even contemplated characters for those appointments.

I will now respectfully ask, in what manner these stipulations on my part have been complied with?

In the arrangement made by me, with the Secretary of War, the three Major Generals stood, Hamilton, Pinckney, Knox; and in this order I expected their Commissions would have been dated. This, I conceive, must have been the understanding of the Senate. And certainly was the expectation of all those with whom I have conversed. But you have been pleased to order the last to be first, and the first to be last. Of four Brigadiers for the Provisional army, one whom I never heard of as a Military character, has been nominated and appointed; and another is so well known to all those who served with him, in the Revolution, as (for the appointment) to have given the greatest disgust, and will be the means of preventing many valuable officers of that army from coming forward. One Adjutant General has been, and another is ready to be appointed in case of the nonacceptance of Mr. North, not only without any consultation with me, but without the least intimation of the intention; although in the letter I had the honor to write you on the 4th of July in acknowledgment of your favour of the 22d of June preceding, and still more strongly in one of the same date to the Secretary of War which (while here) his Clerk was, I know, directed to lay before you I endeavored to show you in a strong point of view, how important it was that this officer (besides his other qualifications) should be agreeable to the Commander in Chief, and possess his *entire* confidence.

To encrease the Powers of the Commander in Chief, or to lessen those of the President of the United States, I pray you

to be persuaded was most foreign from my heart. To secure able Coadjutors in the arduous task I was about to enter upon, was my *sole* aim. This the public good demanded, and this must have been equally the wish of us both. But to accomplish it, required an intimate knowledge of the *Componant* parts of the characters among us, in the higher grades of the late army. and I hope (without incurring the charge of presumption) I may add that the opportunities I have had to judge of these, are second to none. It was too interesting to me, who had staked every thing which was dear and valuable upon the issue, to trust more to chance than could be avoided. It could not be supposed that I was insensible to the risk I was about to run, knowing that the chances of losing, was at least equal to those of encreasing that reputation which the partiality of the world had been pleased to bestow on me. No one then acquainted with these circumstances; the sacrifices I was about to make; and the impartiality of my conduct in the various walks of life, could suppose that I had any other object in view than to obtain the best aids the country afforded, and my judgment could dictate.

If an Army had been in actual existence, and you had been pleased to offer the command of it to me, my course would have been plain: I should have examined the Constitution of it; looked into the organization, and enquired into the character of its Officers &ca. As the army was to be raised, and the Officers to be appointed, could it be expected (as I was no Candidate for the Office) that I would be less cautious, or less attentive to secure these advantages?

It was not difficult for me to perceive that if we entered into a serious contest with France, that the character of the War would differ materially from the last we were engaged in. In the latter, time, caution, and worrying the enemy until we

could be better provided with arms, and other means, and had better disciplined Troops to carry it on, was the plan for us. But if we should be engaged with the former, they ought to be attacked at every step, and, if possible, not suffered to make an establishment in the Country, acquiring thereby strength from the disaffected and the Slaves, whom I have no doubt they will arm, and for that purpose will commence their operations South of the Potomack.

Taking all these circumstances into view, you will not be surprised at my sollicitude to intrench myself as I did; nor is it to be supposed that I made the arrangement of the three Major Generals without an eye to possible consequences. I wished for time, it is true, to have effected it, hoping that an amicable adjustment might have taken place; and offered, at a very short summons, (inconvenient as it would have been) to proceed to Philadelphia for that purpose; but as no subsequent notice was taken thereof, I presumed there were operative reasons against the measure, and did not repeat it.

It is proper too I should add, that, from the information which I received from various quarters, and through different channels, I had no doubt in my mind that the current sentiment among the members of Congress, and particularly among those from NewEngland, was in favor of Colonel Hamilton's being second in command, and this impression has been since confirmed in the most unequivocal manner by some respectable members of that body, whom I have myself seen and conversed with on the subject.

But if no regard was intended to be had to the *order* of my arrangement, why was it not altered before it was submitted to the Senate? This would have placed matters upon simple ground. It would then have been understood as it is at present, namely, that the Gentlemen would rank in the order they

were named; but the change will contravene this, and excite much conversation, and unpleasant consequences.

I cannot lay my hand readily upon the resolves of the old Congress, relative to the settlement of Rank between Officers of the same grade, who had been in service and were disbanded, while a part of the Army remained in existence; but if I have a tolerable recollection of the matter they are totally irrelevant to the present case. Those resolves passed, if I am not mistaken, at a time when the proportion of Officers to men was so unequal as to require a reduction of the former: and when the Army was about to undergo a reduction in part, and the officers might be called upon again. But will a case of this sort apply to Officers of an Army which has ceased to exist for more than fourteen years? I give it frankly as my opinion (if I have not entirely forgotten the principle on which the Resolves took place) that they will not: and I as frankly declare, that the only motive I had for examining a list of the Officers of that Army was to be reminded of names.

If the rule contended for was to obtain, what would be the consequences, and where would the evil end? In all probability resort would be had to the field officers of the Revolutionary Army to fill similar grades in the augmented and Provisional Corps which are to be raised. What then is to be done with General Dayton, who never ranked higher than Captain in it? The principle will apply with equal force in that case as in the case of Hamilton and Knox. The injury (if it is one) of putting a junr. over the head of a Senr. Officer of the last war, is not ameliorated by the nominations or appointments of them on different days. It is the act itself, not the manner of doing it, that affects.

I have dwelt longer on this point than perhaps was necessary, in order to show, that in my opinion, former rank in the

Revolutionary Army ought to have no influence in the present case, farther than may be derived from superior experience, brilliant exploits, or general celebrity of character. And that, as the Armies about to be raised are commencing de novo, the President has the right to make Officers of Citizens or Soldiers at his pleasure; and to arrange them in any manner he shall deem most conducive to the public weal.

It is an invidious task, at all times, to draw comparisons; and I shall avoid it as much as possible; but I have no hesitation in declaring, that if the Public is to be deprived of the Services of Colo. Hamilton in the Military line, that the Post he was destined to fill will not be easily supplied; and that this is the sentiment of the Public, I think I can venture to pronounce. Although Colo. Hamilton has never acted in the character of a General Officer, yet his opportunities, as the principal and most confidential aid of the Commander in chief, afforded him the means of viewing every thing on a larger scale than those whose attentions were confined to Divisions or Brigades, who knew nothing of the correspondences of the Commander in Chief, or of the various orders to, or transactions with, the General Staff of the Army. These advantages, and his having served with usefulness in the Old Congress; in the General Convention; and having filled one of the most important departments of Government with acknowledged abilities and integrity, have placed him on high ground; and made him a conspicuous character in the United States, and even in Europe.

To these, as a matter of no small consideration may be added, that as a lucrative practice in the line of his Profession is his *most certain* dependence, the inducement to relinquish it, must, in some degree, be commensurate. By some he is considered as an ambitious man, and therefore a dangerous one. That he is ambitious I shall readily grant, but it is of that laudable kind

which prompts a man to excel in whatever he takes in hand. He is enterprising, quick in his perceptions, and his judgment intuitively great: qualities essential to a Military character, and therefore I repeat, that his loss will be irrepairable.

With respect to General Knox, I can say with truth, there is no man in the United States with whom I have been in habits of greater intimacy; no one whom I have loved more sincerely, nor any for whom I have had a greater friendship. But, esteem, love, and friendship, can have no influence on my mind when I conceive that the subjugation of our Government and Independence, are the objects aimed at by the enemies of our Peace; and, when, possibly, our all is at stake.

In the first moments of leisure, after the Secretary of War had left this place, I wrote a friendly letter to Genl Knox, stating my firm belief that if the French should invade this Country with a view to the conquest or to the division of it, their operations would commence to the Southward, and endeavoured to show him, in that case, how all important it was to engage General Pinckney, his numerous family, friends and influential acquaintances heartily in the cause. Sending him at the sametime a copy of the arrangement, which I supposed *to be final;* and in a subsequent letter, I gave him my opinion fully with respect to the relative situation of himself and Colo. Hamilton, not expecting, I confess, the difficulties which have occurred.

I will say but little, relatively to the appointment of the Brigadiers before alluded to; but I must not conceal, that after what had passed, and my understanding of the compact, that my feelings were not a little wounded by the appointment of any, much more such characters, without my knowledge.

In giving these details, I have far exceeded the limits of a letter, but I hope to be excused for the prolixity of it. My object

has been, to give you a clear and distinct view of my understanding of the terms, on which I received the Commission with which you were pleased to honor me.

Lengthy as this letter is, there is another subject, not less interesting to the Commander in Chief of the Armies (be him whom he may) than it is important to the United States, which I beg leave to bring respectfully to your view. We are now, near the end of September, and not a man recruited, nor a Battalion Officer appointed, that has come to my knowledge. The consequence is, that the spirit and enthusiasm which prevailed a month or two ago and would have produced the *best* men in a short time, is evaporating *fast,* and a month or two hence may induce but few, and those perhaps of the *worst* sort to Inlist. Instead therefore of having the augmented force in a state of preparation, and under a course of discipline, it is now to be *raised* and possibly may not be in existence when the Enemy is in the field; we shall have to meet veteran Troops inured to conquest with Militia or raw recruits; the consequence of which is not difficult to conceive or foretell.

I have addressed you, Sir, with openness and candour, and I hope with respect, requesting to be informed whether your determination to reverse the order of the three Major Generals is final, and whether you mean to appoint another Adjutant General without my concurrence. With the greatest respect and consideration I have the honor &c.[10]

[10] President Adams answered this letter from Quincy (October 9), the day after he received it:

"You request to be informed, whether my determination to reverse the order of the three Major Generals, is final, and whether I mean to appoint another Adjutant General without your Concurrence. I presume, that before this Day you have received Information, from the Secretary at War, that I some time ago Signed the three Commissions and dated them on the Same day, in hopes Similar to yours that an amicable Adjustment or Acquiescence might take place among the Gentlemen themselves. But, if these hopes should be disappointed, and Controversies should arise, they will of course be submitted to you as Commander in Chief, and if after all any one should be so obstinate as to appeal to me from the Judgment of the Commander

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 26, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your confidential letter of the 21st. instant is before me; but the long letter which is promised therein, has not got to hand.[11] Probably the messenger who carries this, and other letters to the Post Office this afternoon, may return with it.

As you have given extracts of my letter of the 16th. to the President, and informed him, that you thought it necessary to apprise me of his seeming determination relatively to the rank of Major Generals Hamilton and Knox, I conceived I had sufficient ground to proceed upon, and have, accordingly, in a letter of yesterday's date, given him my ideas in a lengthy detail, on the *whole* of that business; that I may know *at once* and *precisely,* what I have to expect.

The rought draught of it I send for your perusal, but with express desire that the contents may not be divulged, unless the result should make it necessary for me to proceed to the final step. You will readily perceive, that even the *rumour* of a misunderstanding between the President and me, while the

in Chief, I was determined to confirm that Judgment. Because, whatever Construction may be put upon the Resolutions of the ancient Congress which have been applied to this Case, and whether they are at all applicable to it or not, there is no doubt to be made, that by the present Constitution of the United States, the President has Authority to determine the Rank of Officers.

"I have been for some time prepared in my own Mind to nominate Mr Dayton to be Adjutant General, in Case of the Refusal of Mr North. Several others have occurred and been Suggested to me, but none who in point of Science or Litterature, political and military Merit or Energy of Character, appear to be equal to him. I have no exclusive attachment to him or any other. If you have any other in contemplation, I pray you to mention him to the Secretary at War who may fill up his Commission immediately, in Case Mr North declines." Adams's letter is in the *Washington Papers.* Washington copied it and sent the copy to Alexander Hamilton.

[11] McHenry's letter to Washington, dated Sept. 19, 1798, in which he quotes, at length, from the letter from President Adams to him, dated August 29. (See note to the letter from Washington to McHenry, Sept. 19, 1798, *ante.*)

breach can be repaired, would be attended with unpleasant consequences. If there is no disposition on his part to do this, the Public must decide which of us is right, and which wrong.

I thought it best to communicate my ideas to the President on this subject as soon as I had ground to act upon; it being easier, at all times, to prevent an evil, than to provide a remedy for it.

The draught of my letter to the President you will please to return. I shall say nothing more, until I receive the letter you have promised; except that I am always, &c.

## To THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY[12]

Mount Vernon, September 26, 1798.

Sir: It will afford me pleasure to give you any information in my power, and any opinion, so far as I am able to form one, on the subject of your letter of the 16th inst, which did not come to my hands till the 24th.

I cannot entertain a doubt, but it will be the policy of this Country to create such a navy as will protect our commerce from the insults and depredations to which it has been Subjected of late, and to make it duly respected. To effect this, there must be, as you observe, at least one Navy yard established for building Ships. That this should be under the eye of the government, and as near the centre of the U. S. as it can be fixed, with equal advantages to the whole of the community, I think no one will deny.

Whether or not the States to the Northward of the Potomac are able to supply timber for Ship building in such quantities, of such quality, and upon such terms as may be desirable, is more than I can tell. But I will venture to say, that no place,

[12] Benjamin Stoddert.

either North or South of this, can be more effectually secured against the attack of an Enemy; and that the Banks and vicinity of this River, both above and below Tide water, abound with the best of Ship timber is well known. Whenever the navigation above tide water shall be completed (which I trust will be at no very distant period) there will be opened not only an inexhaustible store of timber for building, but an abundant supply of the largest and best white pine trees for Masts of any dimension, as there are extensive forests of them about the head of the Potomac. Besides which, no part of the U. S. affords better cedar and Locust than the lands about this River. You know that Iron of the best quality can be furnished from the works on the river, and as cheap as from any part of the U. S., and the establishment of a public foundery and Armory at the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah, will afford no small advantage in arming the ships. The articles of Tar, Pitch, live Oak &c. can be brought here *at least* upon as good terms as to any place North of this: And if Hemp, cordage &c. are to be imported, they can certainly come here as readily as to any other part of the U. S. But, should hemp be furnished from our own Lands, (which is very desirable) this River is the Market to which it would be most likely to be brought in the greatest abundance; for, to say nothing of the rich bottoms on this River and its branches, which are exceeding well calculated for raising hemp, it is so valuable an article that it will bear transportation across the Allegany from the rich lands of the Ohio, where it can, and indubitably will, be produced in large quantities.

With respect to security against the attacks of an Enemy, no place can have advantages superior to the federal City and Alexandria. Should proper works be erected on Diggs' point, (which you well know) at the junction of the Potomac and

Piscataqua creek,[13] it would not be in the power of all the navies in Europe to pass that place, and be afterward in a situation to do mischief above; for every vessel, in passing up the River, must, from the course of the Channel (and the channel is so narrow as to admit but of one vessel' gog abreast) present her bows to that point long before she comes within gun shot of it, and continue in that direction untill she comes directly under the point, from whence shot may be thrown upon her deck allmost in a perpendicular direction. Should she be so fortunate as to pass the works, she must expose her stern to the fire from them, as far as a shot can reach. Thus exposed to be raked fore and aft, for such a distance, without once being able to bring her broadside to bear upon the fort, you can readily see how allmost impossible it will be for a vessel to pass this place; provided it be properly fortified and well supplied. And what makes it the more important, is, that it cannot be attacked by land with any prospect of success; [for it has the River on one side, Piscataqua Creek on another side (each nearly a mile wide) and the opposite Banks very low, a very deep Ravine (level with the Creek) on the third side from whence the height is almost if not altogether inaccessable. And a very narrow approach on the fourth side. In a word the works might be insulated, and one range of Batteries over another constructed sufficient for an hundred or more pieces of Cannon.] Another advantage which this River affords is, that altho the distance in the course of the river, from its mouth to the Federal City, is between 150 and 200 miles. [Yet from the heights about Cedar Point (say Laidlers Ferry) no Vessel can

[13] A fort was erected on this point (Fort Warburton) in 1808. In 1813, under the direction of Major L'Enfant, Fort Washington was started on the site of Fort Warburton. The British destroyed this in 1814; it was rebuilt, and later (1898) was modernized. It has since been abandoned.

enter the River undiscovered, and by means of signals established on the prominent Eminences between that place and the site just mentioned, and the Federal City notice thereof and of the number and description of the Vessels may be conveyed to those places in a few minutes. Besides, there are not many winds I believe, that will serve Vessels the whole distance.]

How far the place marked out in the plan of the Federal City, for the Marine Hospital, may be elegible for a Navy yard, either from its situation or extent, I am not able to say; from your Knowledge and information on this subject you are more able to judge than I am. But that Locks, a dry Dock, for building or repairing Ships, are essential to a navy yard, is certain; and there is no doubt but abundance of Water, to supply such, may be had from the streams which you mention: and I think that it is by no means chimerical to say, that the water of the Potomac, may, and will be brought from above the Great Falls into the Federal City, which would, in future, afford an ample supply for this object. But after enumerating all the superior advantages this River offers for the establishment of a navy yard, everything will depend upon the depth of water; and this is so important a point that an accurate examination of it should be made, and no reliance placed on vague information. Should it not be found sufficient for Ships of the Line fully armed and provisioned, might not some measures be taken to deepen the channel [over the bar at Maryld. Point, the only place I am told that requires it]? Or might not a naval arsenal, or a depot for provisions, be established, with security, below the shallow parts of the River, where the Ships might arm or take in their provisions?

These, however, are mere suggestions which may or may not be worth attending to.

I thank you, Sir, for the good wishes you express for my health, which I most sincerely reciprocate, and beg you to be assured that I am etc.[14]

## *To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1798.

Dear Sir: Late this afternoon Major Simons[15] presented me with your letter of the 22d. of July, and anxious to proceed on his journey, proposes to continue it in the morning early, this allows me but little time to say any thing, when I wished to have said a great deal to you.

I have never yet heard whether you have accepted, or declined, your late appointment. The crisis is important, and if the French persevere in their inequitous and nefarious plans; the friends of the Government and Constitution of this Country however desirous they may be of retirement, will be *obliged* to come forward, and it is better to do it in the first instance, under advantages, than in the hour of necessity, when there is no alternative. This consideration, accompanying my wishes, induce me to hope that I shall see you as a Coadjutor in the Field.

It is to me, a matter of sore regret that the Recruiting service has not commenced, and more astonishing yet, that the Regimental Officers for the Augmented Corps are not appointed.

It has been said (but on what authority I am unable to inform you) that the twelve Regiments, under the Act for augmenting the force of the United States, will be proportioned among them; whereof Virginia, the two Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, will be called upon for four; and perhaps

[14] The draft is in an unidentified hand. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

[15] William Simons, of South Carolina. He was commissioned a captain in the Fifth Infantry in 1799, but declined.

the additional Troops of Cavalry. If this plan should be adopted, I presume each of these states will be called upon for a certain part. I do not mean that the *Authority* of the State will be required to furnish them, but that, so many Men will be recruited in each, and furnish Officers in proportion thereto.

To you, I need not remark how all important it is, to get well known and well tried Officers in the several grades; or if that cannot be accomplished, to obtain Gentlemen (not from favor or affection, but from real fitness of character to come forward. On a presumption that the aforementioned plan *may* be adopted, and that no further, or unnecessary delay may take place, let me entreat you, to give me the names of such Gentlemen as you think would fill, with honor and dignity, the several grades of Regimental Officers, in South Carolina, and as far as you are acquainted with them, of North Carolina and Georgia also. annexing the Rank to the name; and in the order (of each grade) you conceive they are entitled to preference, that is to say, supposing four Captains only should be the proportion of South Carolina, and you give eight, number them one, two and so on. the same of the field Officers and Subalterns. And let me hear from you as soon as possible, by Post.

I write, as you will readily perceive, in much haste; but if I am understood, it is sufficient. I pray you to present me in respectful terms to Mrs. Washington, and be assured of the friendship and Affectionate regard of Dear Sir etc.

## *To WILLIAM RUSSELL[16]

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1798.

Sir: Your favour of the 8th instt. is received, and I thank you for your obliging attention to the articles promised me, when I had the pleasure of seeing you at this place.

[16] Of Middletown, Conn.

I will direct twenty of my best ewes to be reserved for the Ram you have kindly promised me; which, with the Chaff machine, I shall look for when an opportunity will allow you to send them.

The cause which has prevented their shipment, is very afflicting to humanity, and must be sorely felt by the City of New York, and other places under the same calamitous circumstances.

I have sent to the care of Mr. Thomas Porter of Alexandria, fifteen bushels of fine forward wheat, in five flour barrels, agreeably to your desire. Having none of my own growth that was pure and unmixed, I purchased this quantity from a neighbour of mine who raises no other kind, and am assured it is genuine.

I feel very much obliged, Sir, by your present of the Ram, and further kind intentions; for the trouble you have taken to procure the Chaff machine for me; and not less for your kind wishes, which I reciprocate with great cordiality being Sir Your etc.

## *To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1798.

Gentlemen: Your favour of yesterday's date is received. and enclosed are checks on the Bank of Alexandria for $428.40 amount of payment for the lot had of Mr. D. Carroll;[17] which you will please to deliver when the Conveyance is received; and $178.57 being the third of $535.70 to be paid for lot No. 16 in square 634 purchased from you.

I feel very much obliged by the trouble you have taken in this business; and you will add considerably to the obligation,

[17] Daniel Carroll, of "Duddington."

by examining Mr. Blagdins[18] estimate accurately, to prevent any imposition upon me: your knowledge of prices, and perfect acquaintance in matters of this kind, will enable you to form a correct judgment of the componant parts, as well as the aggregate amount of the proposed buildings, whereas my unacquaintedness in the present price of materials, Workmen's wages, &ca. &ca. might subject me (if the Undertaker was so disposed) to great imposition. I am willing to pay the full value, according to the Plan, and will sign any agreement you shall approve; relying infinitely more on your judgment in this business, than on any skill I have in it.

There is a matter I often intended to mention to the Commissioners of the City, but have always forgot to do it, when I was at their Board. Eventually it may be interesting to me, and I shall therefore do it now, as it has again occurred.

When I purchased lots No. 5. 12. 13. and 14, in square 667[19] (at public sale), it was declared at the time, and I have the Surveyors sketch (without any signature however) shewing it, that they were (that is No. 12. 13. and 14) water lots. There is a street between them and the Eastern branch; and if *any,* not more than a slipe of the bank between the Street and the water. On the strength of this declaration I purchased, and paid pretty smartly for the lots; but in the evidence (received from the former Commissioners) of this purchase, nothing therein contained gives assurance of this fact, and hereafter it may become a disputable point, very much to my injury.

I have troubled you with this statement, accompanied with the Surveyors sketch (to be returned) that you may be enabled to point out the measures necessary to be taken, for my surety, in this case. Indeed, it appears to me that my title to *all* the lots

[18] George Blagdin (Blagden). He was the builder of the two houses Washington erected on North Capitol Street.

[19] Square 667 is bounded by Water, V, W, and First Streets SW.

I have purchased from the *Public* is incomplete; having no more than certificates thereof; when, on my part the conditions have been fully complied with. With very great esteem etc.

[H. S. P.]

## *To REVEREND ZECHARIAH LEWIS[20]

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1798.

Sir: The best apology I can make, for suffering your letter of the 11th. of July[21] to remain so long unacknowledged, is to offer a plain and simple detail of facts.

Soon after it came to hand, I requested a Gentleman of my acquaintance in Alexandria, to obtain for me, the route and distance from that place to the Natural Bridge. This, though promised, from causes unnecessary to enumerate, was not accomplished before I was siezed with a fever, which reduced me low, and left me in such a debilitated state, as to render writing both irksome and improper.

After this, I had to apply through another channel for the information you required and Inclosed is the result.

I thank you for sending me Doctr. Dwights[22] Sermons to whom I pray you to present the complimts. of Yr. etc.

## *To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, September 29, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of yesterday's date from George Town is received.

You know perfectly well what my inducements were to part with the property you purchased of me, but rather than have any difficulty, or unpleasant disputes respecting the payments,

[20] Tutor at Yale College.
[21] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.
[22] President Timothy Dwight, of Yale College.

agreeable to contract, I would take productive property in the Federal City, in Alexandria, or almost any where, or any thing productive, or unproductive, at what it would fetch in the market; provided the title is indisputable; but I protest decidedly against receiving *any* where their is the smallest pretensions of others.

As to the *present* being an unfavourable time to dispose of property in the City, or elsewhere, permit me to observe that, it is a question of very equivocal solution. The rise or fall, depends upon events, which, under present circumstances, few among us are able to penetrate, or foretell the issue. But all this is matter of opinion or speculation, and but little to the purpose.

Point out, if you please, the precise property; the precise situation of it; and, if absolutely free from any incumbrance or disputes. This will enable me to determine, at once, if there be a probability of accommodating matters in the way you propose. It is necessary I should inform you, that I have tried every expedient in my power, to obtain payment of Jesse Simms's note, but, as yet, without effect, and that, by looking to my letter of the 8th. of Sepr. Last year, you will perceive that credit was only to be given when paid.

With respect to Corn, I have partly contracted with my Nephew, Colo. Wm. Washington of Westmoreland, for an annual supply of 500 Barls.

I hope nothing will occasion your leaving these parts without my seeing you. I want much to do it on account of some military concerns, and the sooner it can be made to suit your convenience the more agreeable it would be to me. But for the daily expectation I have been in of this pleasure, I should long since have written to you on this subject. With great esteem etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 30, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have lately received information, which, in my opinion, merits attention. It is that the brawlers against Governmental measures, in some of the most discontented parts of this state, have, all of a sudden, become silent; and, it is added, are very desirous of obtaining Commissions in the Army, about to be raised.

This information did not fail to leave an impression upon my mind at the time I received it; but it has acquired strength from a publication I have lately seen in one of the Maryland Gazettes (between the Author of which and my informant, there could have been no interchange of sentiments) to the same effect. The motives ascribed to them are, that in such a situation they would endeavour to divide, and contaminate the Army, by artful and seditious discourses, and perhaps at a critical moment bring on confusion. What weight to give to these conjectures you can judge of, as well as I. But, as there will be characters enough of an opposite description, who are ready to receive appointments, circumspection is necessary; for my opinion of the first are, that you could as soon scrub the blackamore white, as to change the principles of a profest Democrat; and that he will leave nothing unattempted to overturn the Government of this Country. Finding the resentment of the People at the conduct of France too strong to be resisted, they have, in appearance, adopted their sentiments; and pretend that, notwithstanding the misconduct of Government have brought it upon us, yet, if an Invasion should take place, it will be found that *they* will be among the first to defend it. This is their story at all Elections, and Election meetings, and told in many instances with effect.

Whether there be little, much, or nothing in the information, I shall not take upon me to decide; but it appeared to me to be of sufficient moment to apprise you thereof. With esteem etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Confidential)

Mount Vernon, October 1,[23] 1798.

Dear Sir: This letter will contain very little more than an acknowledgment of the receipts of your letters of the 13th and 18th. of last month, which came safe to hand.

The letter written by Mr. Wolcott to the President of the United States, and the representation made by me to him, so soon as I received *official* information of the change intended, by him, in the relative Rank of the Major Generals, and of his departure in almost every other instance from what I considered a solemn compact; and the *only* terms on which I would, by an acceptance of the Commission hazard every thing dear and valuable to me, will soon bring matters to a close, so far as it respects myself. But, until the final result of them is known, the less there is said on the subject the better. With great truth and sincerity I am &c.

## *To JAMES ROSS

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1798.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed letters, left open for your perusal, the delinquency of Colo. Shreve, and my determination to enforce payment of the Instalment of his judgment Bond, the 1st. of June last.

[23] Ford prints this letter as a footnote under date of Oct. 10.

Whether, as the Bond was deposited in the Bank of Pennsylvania for collection, it rests with me to draw it from thence for the purpose of putting it in suit, or for them to order it, your better judgment, and knowledge of the practice, will decide, and you will act accordingly.

My object is to enforce paymt. as soon as the usual course of things will admit. 1st. because I am in real want of the money, and 2d. because I believe there is not other certain dependence to obtain it, for Shreve, from first to last has done little else but trifle, both with himself and me. With very sincere esteem etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private, and quite confidential)

Mount Vernon, October 1,[24] 1798.

My dear Sir: You will be at no loss to perceive, from my *private* letter to you of the 16th. ulto, extracts from which you sent to the President of the United States; and from my representation to him, dated the 25th. following the rough draught of wch. was enclosed in my last what my determination is, if he perseveres in this Resolution to change the order of the Major Generals, and to disregard the conditions on which I accepted the Commission of Lieutt. Genl. of the Armies &ca.

Let me then request you, with the frankness and candour of a friend, to give me your opinion *fully,* and *freely* of the measure; to ask if you think I could, with propriety, and a due respect for my own character, retain the Commission under such violation, of the terms, on which I accepted it; and what you conceive will be the consequences of my resignation thereof.

[24] Ford prints this letter under date of October 10.

If Colo. Pickering, and the Gentlemen who act with you, are minutely acquainted with *all* the circumstances of the case, it would be satisfactory to me, to know their opinions also, with respect to my eventual resignation; *but not as a matter required by me,* but as questions propounded by *yourself,* entirely, and absolutely.

Be so good as to let me know the ground on which *you,* and Colo. Pickering are *certain,* the President is mistaken in his conjectures that the New England States would be disgusted if Hamilton Preceeds Knox, in Rank, and add, if you please whether Pickering's prediliction in favor of the former proceeds from pure conviction of the utility of the measure, or from some personal dislike to the latter. I have some suspicion that he is not a friend to Knox, but cannot suppose that this would have any influence in the case.

I should like to have seen a copy of Mr. Wolcott's letter to the President, but as it was not sent, I presume there was some reason for withholding, and do not repeat the request.

I wish to hear from you on the subject of this letter soon as possible. Burn it, as soon as it is perused, as I will do your answer, that neither the one, nor the other, may appear hereafter. With much truth etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your confidential letter of the 19th. ulto. did not reach Alexandria until the 28th. I thank you for the statement, and lengthy details which it contains.

The President may have reasons which will justify the inexecution of the law, for augmenting the force of the United States.

With my lights, I can discover none; but, if the force is required at all, I can see very serious evils resulting from the non-appointmt. of the Battalion Officers, and consequent delay in the Recruiting Service; for reasons mentioned in a former letter, and unnecessary to be repeated in this.

That Mr. Wolcott (on whom there may be more calls than he has funds conveniently to answer) is disposed to replenish the Magazines at the expence of the Recruiting Service, I do not much wonder; but if he were more experienced in the *real* difference, not only in point of Service but in point of expence also, between Militia or Raw Rects and discipd. Troops he would feel more for the Officer who was to conduct them and for the resources of the treasury too than he appears to do at present; for I think it is mathematically demonstrable, that ten thousand Militia (to say nothing of the incompetency of them) drawn out for short terms of Service, coming at different times, though required at one time, returning pointedly at the expiration of their term; Consumption of Provisions; waste of the Military Stores; destruction of Camp equipage of every species; and loss of Arms, will cost the public more than fifteen, I believe I might venture to say 20,000 well tutored, and permanent Troops. When Militia are called upon, you have *two sets* to *pay,* and *supply* at the sametime, one set are raising and Marching, to supply the place of the other set, who will be going; and both sorts of such uncertain dependence, as to baffle all calculation on their strength.

If the Treasury is unable to accomplish both objects, *completely,* let the Magazines be less stored, and the recruiting Service progress. Soldiers are not made in a day, but the munitions of War may be contracted for in an hour: and I believe the Enemy will think the raising and training an army, a more

serious operation than the replenishing of Magazines, which, at all times, ought to be well stored.

Has Mr. Wolcott described the length of the Musket and Bayonet? the Calibre of the first, and shape of the latter? I again repeat, that they ought to be such as to place us on equal ground with the enemy we are to cope with. I am speaking of those he has, and is about to contract for. and I am of opinion a number of rifles ought also to be provided. They might be used to great advantage by skilful hands in a country covered with wood.

You request me to express a *strong* sentiment to Mr. *Pickering* respecting clothing for the Army. What has the Secretary of State to do with the cloathing of the Army?

Your letter of the 25th. of August to the Superintendant of Military Stores, has produced no effect, as yet; for no return of them is come to my hands.

As no mode is yet adopted by the President, by which the Battalion Officers are to be appointed, and as I think I stand upon very precarious ground, in my relation to him, I am not over zealous in taking *unauthorised* steps, when those that I thought *were authorised,* are not likely to meet with much respect.

It will naturally occur to you that to obtain information of proper characters for Officers in the two Carolinas, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee, I must have recourse to others. If then the President should resolve upon a mode different from the one you have suggested, I shall be committed, and stand in an awkward predicament. I will however use some preliminary measures to accomplish yr. wishes, and am, &c.

P. S. You have not furnished me with the letter written by you to the President from hence according to my request and your promise; nor with a copy of the Instructn. recd. from him.

## *To THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1798.

Gentlemen: Be pleased to deliver to the Honble. James Ross, or his order, the Judgment Bond of Israel Shreve to me. Deposited in the Bank of Pennsylvania for Collection, that the same may be put in suit for recovery of the Instalment due the first of June last. With respect I am etc.

## *To ISRAEL SHREVE

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1798.

Sir: I have waited four months to see if, in that time, you would discharge the Instalment of your judgment Bond, due the first of June last. and am determined to wait no longer than the proceedings in a regular course will compel me to do: for which reason I give you notice that by this days Post I have requested Mr. Ross to obtain from the Bank of Pennsylvania (where it was deposited for collection) your judgment Bond and put it in suit without further delay.

I think myself extremely ill used by your Conduct in this business. You know that it was in order to raise money I sold the land. You have sold a part at nearly the double of what you was to have given me; and yet I have been trifled by you more than by any person I have had to deal with.

My own want of money, to fulfil engagements, is such that I inform you before hand, that any application for further indulgence will be unavailing, and need not be attempted. And further, that henceforward, if the Instalments are not paid at the times they become due, the bond will be enforced without any questions being asked. I am etc.

## *To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1798.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th. of July has remained unacknowledged 'till now, that I embrace the opportunity afforded by General Lee's return, to do it.

To a person not in the habit of sending regularly to the Post Office, nearest to them, it is almost useless to write by the Mail; and with very few exceptions, addressing letters by private hands, is almost as bad, very few people paying much attention to them; which, with the shifting of hands, rubbing in the Pocket, and sometimes idle curiosity to know the contents, are great lets to a safe conveyance, in that way.

With respect to the proposed contract for Corn, as my primary object is to be *certain* of getting it, I will agree to divide the freight from your landing to mine (at this place) equally with you; although it would make the Corn come all the higher to me; as neither land, or water transportation, would be more to my Mill (where it will be chiefly wanted) than it would be to the Warehouses, or Wharves in Alexandria. March being a windy month, often cold and disagreeable, about the middle of April would be better, and I would agree to receive it at that time. If with these alterations, from the proposals contained in my letter of the 26th. of June last, you incline to enter into a contract upon the terms therein mentioned, for five hundred Barrels of Corn, annually, I am ready to close the contract, to be binding for, and during our lives.

Your answer to this point would be agreeable, as Genl. Lee is desirous of entering into a contract with me for the same quantity of Corn (500 Barls.), and, on A/c. of the payments,

it would be very convenient for me to make it; but from the uncertainty of its fulfilment on his part, I feel no disposition to enter into one with him.

I thank you for the old documents you sent me, respecting the family of our Ancestors. but I am possessed of Papers which prove beyond a doubt, that of the two brothers who Emigrated to this Country in the year 1657, during the troubles of that day, that John Washington, from whom we are descended, was the eldest. The Pedigree from him, I have, and I believe very correct; but the descendants of Lawrence, in a regular course, I have not been able to trace. All those of our name, in and about Chotanck, are from the latter. John, was the Grandfather of my father and Uncle, and Great grand father to Warner and me. He left two Sons, Lawrence and John; the former, who was the eldest, was the father of my father, Uncle and Aunt Willis. Mrs. Hayward[25] must have been a daughter of the *first* Lawrence, and thence became the Cousen of the second Lawrence, and John. We all unite in best wishes for you and family, and I am etc.

## *To WILLIAM HERBERT

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: A day or two ago, I received the enclosed letter. Will you be so good as to enable me to answer it.

Observing to you, not long since, that the want of money prevented my doing something (I have forgot now what) you said, if I understood you rightly, that I might be accommodated at the Bank of Alexandria.

[25] Martha Washington. She was the daughter of Lawrence, the rector of Purleigh; emigrated to America and married Samuel Hayward, of Stafford County, Va.; and died in 1697.

I think it not unlikely that in the course of next spring, or summer, if I undertake a measure which is in contemplation, that I shall have occasion for a larger Sum than I see a prospect of receiving from what is due to me. Let me ask then (if I was not mistaken in what you said) what sum you think I could obtain? On what terms? for what time? And what security wd be required? I am etc.

## *To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1798.

Gentlemen: I had the honor to receive your letter of the 3d. instt, last Night.

Mr. Blagdens estimate of the cost of the houses I had proposed to build, far exceeds any aggregate Sum I had contemplated; or think I could command; unless more punctuality was to be found in the fulfilment of Contracts than is, I believe, experienced by any one. Eight, or at most $10,000, was the extent of my calculation. The house Mr. Law is about to build (not much if any less than my two) is undertaken for less than $6,000 as he informed me. This information, and the report that Materials and workmens wages were low, disposed me to build houses of better appearance than is necessary perhaps for the primary object which induced the measure.

But I will suspend any final decision until I see Mr. Blagdens estimate in detail, with your observations thereupon; and what part of the work I can execute with my own Tradesmen, thereby reducing the advances. I shall only add, that with a high sense of the trouble you have had in this business, and with very great esteem etc.[26]

[26] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

## *To LANDON CARTER

Mount Vernon, October 5, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 1st. instt. has been received, and if it had been convenient, I should have been glad of your company as you travelled to Annapolis. As you propose however to send in your Servant, and I am generally on horse back between breakfast and dinner, that he may not be delayed, or disappointed, you will receive, enclosed, one letter for the Govr. of Maryland (an old acquaintance of mine),[27] and another for Mr. McDowall President of the College. which, I hope may answer your purposes. They will be left, under this cover, for whomsoever you may send, in case I should be out.

I thank you for the trouble you have taken in delivering your thoughts on the means of preserving health. Having, through life, been blessed with a competent share of it, without using preventatives against sickness, and as little medicine as possible when sick; I can have no inducement now to change my practice. against the effect of time and age, no remedy has ever yet been discovered; and like the rest of my fellow mortals, I must (if life is prolonged) submit, and be reconciled, to a gradual decline. With esteem etc.

Please to put wafers on the letters before delivery.[28]

## *To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 5, 1798.

My dear Sir: The enclosed letter was written, as you will perceive, to go by General Lee; who I know is at George Town,

[27] The letter of introduction to Gov. John Henry, of Maryland, was dated October 5, and very briefly introduced Landon Carter "who is going to Annapolis for the purpose of fixing his Sons at the College in that City." This letter was sold at auction in 1910.

[28] From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by Luther H. Evans, national director, United States Historical Records Survey, Washington, D. C.

and promised to call here on his way down. But as *his ways* are not like the ways of *other men,* and Jerry has called here on his return from Corbin Washington's, I embrace *his,* as the most speedy and certain conveyance of the two.

All those who have lots in the Federal City, contiguous to the Capitol, are much pressed by the Friends of the permanent Government thereat, to build thereon, for the accomodation of the members; as a *certain* mean of bringing Congress there at the period designated in the Law.

I have been induced to buy a lot in the vicinity of the Capitol for this purpose, although I had, before, as many in the City as I wanted. I mention this circumstance for your consideration, as it is of importance to insure the fixture of Congress there. I am etc.[29]

## *To ANDREW ELLIOT BELKNAP

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 20th Ult came duly to hand. William Herbert Esqr. of Alexandria will receive, distribute, and collect the money agreeably to the subscription I sent you; but it will be necessary to accompany the Books, with the original Paper, or a copy thereof for his information with respect to the Subscribers.

You will please to recollect that I am in possession already of the *first* Volume of the American Biography written by your deceased and worthy father. and I will just add that, if to my name is annexed more than *one* Copy, it was done with a View to encourage the work in *continuation;* more therefore would be useless to me. And if the surplus could be disposed of where they are, it would be more agreeable to me. but do as you please in this respect. I am etc.

[29] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

## *To WILLIAM HERBERT

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1798.

Dear Sir: I thank you for the information contained in your letter of the 5th. instant and will avail myself of your kind offer, if circumstances shd. render it expedient for me to have recourse to the Bank of Alexandria. Either of the sums mentioned therein, is more than I shall want; and if I could receive what I ought to do, I shall have no occasion for any from that source.

I will inform young Mr. Belknap of your obliging offer, and with very great esteem and regard am Dear Sir etc.

## *To SAMUEL HODGDON[30]

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1798.

Sir: The Paper mentioned in your letter of the 23d. of August I have recd. I wish there had been more of the Patent copying sort, as what you have sent will soon be expended; and I may find it difficult to obtain a supply here. Of the letter Paper I shall find no want in the stores of Alexandria. If you had accompanied the Paper with Wax and Wafers, they would have been convenient and acceptable. With esteem etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Mount Vernon, October 9, 1798.

Sir: Captn. John Spotswood (Son of General Spotswood of this State) will have the honor of presenting this letter to you.

He means to offer his Services in the Naval line. He has been long accustomed to a Sea-faring life, is a good Navigator,

[30] Intendant of Stores at Philadelphia, Pa.

and for many years has been Master and Commander of Vessels. He is sober. His wishes can be best expressed by himself, and you will be the best judge of their propriety. With great esteem etc.

## *MEMORANDUM OF LAND EXCHANGE

October 11, 1798.

Mr. James Welch[31] having signified to me, that he has it in his power to dispose of part of a tract of Ninety Nine thousand nine hundred and ninety five acres of land lying on Elk River in the County of Randolph, conveyed to me in Trust, and proposing to subject other Lands of equal or greater value in lieu thereof, in like trust, and estimating further that it will be an accomodation to him and a benefit to me in his payments to make the exchange.[32]

I do therefore hereby certifie, that upon the ascertainment of this fact, that is, that the Substituted property is of equal value, and free from all disputes and incumbrances, I am willing to receive it in lieu of such part of the aforementioned tract of 99,995 Acres as he shall dispose of, and that I will release my claim accordingly, to the same, upon receiving a proper conveyance of the substituted property.

## *To REVEREND SAMUEL KNOX[33]

Mount Vernon, October 14, 1798.

Revd. Sir: Your favour of the 10th. instant has been duly received, and I feel grateful for the honor of your proposed

[31] A land speculator.

[32] The property to be conveyed to Washington in this exchange could not be found by Eugene E. Prussing as an officially recorded title. (For a history of this transaction see Prussing's *Estate of George Washington, Deceased* (Boston: 1927), pp. 119–121.)

[33] Of Fredericktown (now Frederick), Md.

Dedication of an "Uniform System of Education, adapted to the United States" to me.

Had I not declined similar honors, in all cases where previous applications have been made, I certainly should, with much pleasure, have yielded to one on so important a subject as you have written. But this being the case, I am compelled for the sake of consistency to decline accepting the compliment of yours.

I sincerely wish success to your undertaking and shall, very chearfully, become a subscriber to the Work. With respect I am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 2d, and three of the 5th. instant, came duly to hand. Those of the latter date, were received late in the evening preceeding my visit to the Federal City, where I was detained several days on business; and is the cause of their remaining unacknowledged so long. In the former, you ask if I am acquainted with characters, who have talents and acquirements to fit them for the command of the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers? I am so far from the possession of such knowledge, that I should be unwilling to hazard a recommendation of any, to these important Offices. Mr. Edward Rutledge of Charleston So. Carolina commands the Artillery Corps of that State, and is a man of Spirit and abilities. He is, besides, the particular friend of General Pinckney; but I have no idea (if he was agreeable to the President) that the Rank of Lieut Colonel Commandant would induce him to come forward. Major Rivardi[34] (now in the Service of

[34] Maj. John Jacob Ulrich Rivardi, of the First U. S. Artillery and Engineers.

the U. States) is, I am told, a Scientific character, and a man of experience. He is a Swiss, and was sometime in the Service of Russia. How he has conducted himself in ours, your opportunities, better than any information of mine, will enable you to judge. He is gentlemanly in his appearance, and by those who know him better than I do, is said to be a man of abilities and information.

With respect to the Officers for the Regiments, which (by the plan you submitted to the President) are to be raised in the Southern division; I have made, and shall continue to make, such enquiries for suitable ones, as I can do without Committing myself, if it should not be approved; and in *this State* I might be able, I presume, with the aids I could derive, to make a tolerable good Selection for the proportion, or quota of the four Regiments it would have to furnish. But this is not to be done in the Southern, and Western States without relying upon others: and in whom can more confidence be placed than in the General Officers therein, who are to experience the good, or the evil, which will result from proper, or improper selections? My opinion therefore is, that after the quota of men, required from each State is ascertained, the least tardy, and most efficient mode would be, to send a list of the applicants from each to the General Officers, or Officer, (where there are any) residing therein, and therefrom; or from his or their own knowledge of other characters; and such information as can be obtain'd, make a selection of Officers of the different grades; proportioned thereto; and to know whether they will, or will not serve in the grades allotted. This to be final; that the recruiting Service may commence without *further delay*. But if the President chuses to have a check upon this measure, let such arrangements be forwarded to the War

Office for sanction, or alteration, at his pleasure; and returned for the purpose above-mentioned; for it is of the highest importance, that the Augmented force should be raised, and in training as soon as possible.

Generals Pinckney and Washington[35] would, I am confident, be careful in their selection of Officers for the Troops to be raised in South Carolina and Georgia; and from the character of General Davie,[36] I should hope he would not be less attentive to those to be taken from No. Carolina: How this might be in the State of Tennessee, I cannot say; and with respect to Kentucky, I am more at a loss to express any opinion.

Enclosed is a sketch of the quotas[37] which the States in the Southern division would have to furnish of the four Regiments of Infantry, and six Troops of horse according to the Census, and state of the present Representation. If upon due consideration it should be approved, it might go into immediate execution; either by an immediate order from the War Office, or mediately through the Commander in Chief, as shall be deemed best. In the former case, I conceive it ought to be accompanied with Instructions to the Generals, or persons to whom the Order issues, to give, in the selection of fit characters, a preference first, to officers of the Revolutionary army who are in the prime of life; who have distinguished themselves by their bravery, attention, and gentlemanly deportment; and who have not forfeited their pretensions to either of these qualifications since; 2dly. if such are not to be found, next to young Gentlemen of good families, liberal education,

[35] William Washington, of South Carolina. He had been appointed brigadier general in July, 1798.

[36] William Richardson Davie, of North Carolina. He had also been appointed brigadier general in July, 1798.

[37] See the following document, "Quotas of Troops from Southern States," under date of Oct. 15, 1798.

and high sense of honour; and 3d. in neither case to any who are known enemies to their own government: for they will as certainly attempt to create disturbances in the Military, as they have done in the Civil administration of their Country. With great esteem &c.

PS. In treating on the Subject of Regimental Officers, for the Augmentation, Colo. Willm. Smith[38] of New York again occurs. I know not on what precise ground the nomination of him was rejected by the Senate, and therefore to *advise* bringing him forward again might be improper; nor should I incline to do it, if there was just cause to impeach either his integrity, or his attachment to the measures of Government. But I have always viewed Colo. Smith in the light of an Officer possessing Military talents, and conceive, if he would accept of it, that the command of one of the Regiments about to be raised in the middle district of the United States could not be better bestowed.

## *QUOTAS OF TROOPS FROM SOUTHERN STATES[39]

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1798.

By the Act "To augment the Army of the United States, and for other purposes" Twelve Regiments of Infantry, and six Troops of light Dragoons are to be added to the present force. By the Establishment of them, the first will consist of 7,680 Rank and File, and the second of 354. If four Regiments of the former, and all the latter, are to be raised in the States South of the Potomack, the quota of each State, agreeable to the Population, to the present Representation, and to a medium between the two, will be as follow

[38] William Stephens Smith.
[39] To augment the regular Army.

| States | viz. Population | | | Representn. | | | Medium | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Infantry | Cavalry | Total | Infantry | Cavalry | Total | Infantry | Cavalry | Total |
| Virginia | 1296 | 180 | 1476 | 1216 | 167 | 1383 | 1256 | 174 | 1430 |
| No. Carolina | 500 | 69 | 569 | 640 | 88 | 728 | 570 | 79 | 649 |
| So. Carolina | 432 | 60 | 492 | 384 | 55 | 439 | 408 | 57 | 465 |
| Georgia | 143 | 20 | 163 | 128 | 17 | 145 | 135 | 18 | 153 |
| Kentucky | 127 | 16 | 143 | 128 | 16 | 144 | 128 | 16 | 144 |
| Tennessee | 62 | 8 | 70 | 64 | 8 | 72 | 63 | 8 | 71 |

The remoteness of Kentucky and Tennessee from the Sea board, where it is presumed the Theatre of the War will be; is opposed to the raising of Dragoons in either of those States. And to avoid broken Companies of Infantry, or Troops of Dragoons, in any other State, the following plan of arrangement, of both Officers and Privates, conformably to the preceeding calculation and principle (as nearly as the case will admit) is made.

| States | Infantry | | | | | | | | Dragoons | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Lieutt. Colo. Command | Majors | Captains | Lieutenants. | Ensigns | Sergeants | Musick | Rank and File | Lieutt Colo. Command. | Majors | Captains | Lieutants. | Cornets | Sergeants | Musick | Rank and File |
| Virginia | 2 | 4 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 80 | 40 | 1280 | | 1 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 177 |
| No Carolina | 1 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 36 | 18 | 576 | | | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 118 |
| So Carolina | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 12 | 384 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 59 |
| Georgia | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 128 | | | | | | | | |
| Kentucky | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 128 | | | | | | | | |
| Tennessee | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 64 | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 4 | 8 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 160 | 80 | 2560 | | 1 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 24 | 6 | 354 |

The appointments of Adjutants, Quarter Masters, Paymasters, Surgeons and Surgeons Mates; Sergeant Majors, Quarter Master Sergeants and Senior Musicians, does not press; and of necessity must be postponed where Regiments are composed of Troops from different States until they have united, or are about to unite.

The Corporals, Saddlers, and Farriers are included in the above Rank and file

The Lieutt. Colo. Commandant of the Dragoons is not assigned to any State, because it is not known from whence the most eligable character can be obtained; another Majr. of Dragoons is also wanting.

If Major Talmadge would accept the command of this Corps, I know of none who is [more] preferable. A Captn. Watts[40] of this State, and Officer of celebrity in the Revolutionary War, is very highly recommended by General Lee, as is a Captn. Armstrong[41] (now of Georgia) by the same, but what the conduct of these Gentlemen have been latterly, and what their politics now are he knows not. Perhaps the oldest Captain of Dragoons, now in Service, or both of them, may be meritorious Officers; and entitled to consideration.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1798.

Dear Sir: The information contained in your letter of the 3d. instant was highly grateful to me. Such communications are not only satisfactory to me, but are really useful; for while I hold myself in readiness to obey the call of my Country, it is

[40] John Watts. He was commissioned lieutenant colonel commandant of the cavalry regiment in January, 1799; honorably discharged in June, 1800.

[41] James Armstrong. He was commissioned major in the Fifth U. S. Infantry in July, 1799; honorably discharged in June, 1800.

expedient that I should have more authentic information than News Paper inconsistencies, of the approaching, or receding storm; that I may regulate my private concerns accordingly. So far then as you can give this, with propriety, would be received with thankfulness; and if under the seal of confidence, will be locked up in my own breast.

It is pleasing to hear, that we had so few ships in France when the Directory thereof were pleased to lay an Embargo thereon. I wish, on many accounts, that General Pinckney was as safely landed in his own Country as I hear Mr. Gerry is, after his *terrible fright.* I hope, so soon as he is relieved from the Panic with which he was struck, and wch. must have continued whilst he remained on the watry element, he will come forward in stronger language than his last letter to Mr. Talleyrand contains, and with such explanations as his own character requires, and his Country has a right to demd.[42]

We have nothing new in this quarter; an excessive drought, which still prevails, has been hurtful to our crops; and presses sorely upon the winter grain and grass seeds which have been sown this autumn.

---

[42]Pickering had written (October 3) that Elbridge Gerry had taken fright at an open boat which the English blockading force at the port of Havre had sent to examine the brig in which Gerry left France, and insisted that the captain avoid it. "As it was rather calm, they were obliged to have recourse to their sweeps; and after tugging all day at the oars, were pursued fairly across the channel, and took refuge in Portsmouth harbour, whither also came the pursuers, an hour or two after them. Mr. Gerry assured Mr. Rutledge that the motive of his flight was the fear that the boat might have been dispatched after him by order of the French Government, for the purpose of bringing him back, and of committing him to the Temple or of sending him a prisoner to the West Indies: adding, 'that after his conduct towards the French Government, he was sensible he had every thing to fear from their enmity!' This is amusing enough. So far as we are acquainted with Mr Gerry's conduct in France, it could not possibly excite any other sensation in the French Government but contempt. It is possible, however that since Mr. Gerry discovered the spirit roused in America (and in the Paris Papers of July 13th Mr. King says the *measures* of our Government were faithfully given) he may have been less abject, less tame, and have answered Talleyrand with a semblance of resentment, to rescue himself from the contempt which he saw waiting for him in his own country." From a photostat of the original through the courtesy of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

Maryland, instead of acquiring strength in her Federal representation, by the last Election, has lost ground. What will be the result of the Elections in this state (in March next) is more I believe than any one can foretell at present. No stone is left unturned that can affect the federal Interest by the Democrats. With great esteem I am &c.

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, October 17, 1798.

Gentlemen: Your favour of the 15th, enclosing Mr. Blagdens statement, relative to my proposed buildings, did not reach my hands until last night.

He has not accompanied this Statement with Specific prices; nor has it altered my opinion of the unreasonableness of the former estimates of some of its parts. But being desirous of closing the matter with Mr. Blagden some way, or other, I make him the following offer, viz:

To take the Painting, Glasing and Iron mongery to myself; and allow him besides, Ten thousand five hundred dollars in full of Commission and every other charge for completing the buildings agreeably to the Specification which he handed to me, and is now in his possession.

If he will agree to this proposal, the contract may be immediately drawn; and he may proceed in all the preparatory measures as soon as he pleases. Money shall be furnished for the purpose. and if it would be convenient and advantageous to him, to have the *whole* of the Scantling and Plank provided by a Bill of the same, and he would funish me therewith, I would immediately order it from the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

On the other hand, if he will not agree to it, I must have recourse to some other mode to accomplish my object. The final

answer of Mr. Blagden must be received without delay; as the opportunity of providing materials on good terms may be missed. With great esteem and regard I am etc.[43]

## *To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, October 18, 1798.

My dear Sir: The Gazettes have announced your safe arrival at New York. On which happy event I most sincerely congratulate you, Mrs. Pinckney and family. We were under no small apprehensions on your account. Although nothing is said respecting it, we hope Miss Pinckney's health is perfectly restored.

As it is not probable that you will travel by Water to Charleston, it is unnecessary, I trust to add, that we should be exceedingly glad to see you at this place on your route by Land; and that you wd. make it one of your halting places. Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis unite in every good wish, and in respectful Compliments, to Mrs., Miss Pinckney, and yourself, with My dear Sir Your etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 18, 1798.

Dear Sir: The contents of your letter of the 13th. instant, which I received last night, gave me much pleasure; and it has been increased since, by the annunciation (in the Gazettes) of General Pinckneys safe arrival at New York. I hope he will not play the second part of the *difficulty* created by General Knox.

The extracts of letters from our Consuls, and other characters in France to you, are satisfactory, and useful to me.

[43] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

My opinion always has been (however necessary to be in a state of preparation) that no formidable Invasion is to be apprehended from France while Great Britain and that Country are at War; not from any favourable disposition the latter has towards us, but from actual inability to transport Troops, and the Munitions of War, while their Ports are blockaded. That they would willingly and perhaps necessarily, employ their Forces in such an Enterprise, in case of Peace, I have little doubt, unless adverse fortune in their foreign relations; a Revolution at home; or a wonderful change of sentiment in the governing powers of their Country, should take place.

If any thing in the conduct of their agents could excite astonishment, it would be Talleyrands effrontery, duplicity, and supposed Diplomatic skill, in his management of matters with Mr. Gerry: but as his object, to those who are not determined to be blind, may be read as they run, it is unnecessary to comment upon it: and with respect to Mr. Gerry, I observed in my last, that his own character, and public satisfaction, require better evidence than his letter to the Minister of foreign relations, to prove the propriety of his conduct, during his Envoyship.

I fear, from the Paragraph which you have extracted from a Paris Paper of the 23d. of August, relative to Madame la Fayette, that the General and his Son are on their Passage to this Country. I had a letter from him dated late in May, wherein he says, that her health was too much impaired to attempt a Sea voyage at *that* time and therefore that she and the female part of his family would go to France, while he, and Son, would visit the United States; whether he expected to arrive in the Month of September. On Public, and his own private account, I hoped this would not have happend while matters were in the train they are at present; but as one part of the information appears to have been accomplished, the other may be expected.

I have read your letter of the 29th Ult to P. Johnston, on the subject of the Prince Edward Address[44] to the President: and with pleasure.

It ought to flash conviction of the impropriety of that address, on all minds that are open to it; but it is not easier to change the principles of the *leaders* of such measures, than it would be to wash a blackamoor white. Truth and information is not their object. To blind, and irritate the People against the Government (to effect a change in it) is their sole aim.

With much truth and sincere regard, &c.

## *To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, October 18, 1798.

Dear Sir: I regret, not having received your letter of the 16th. until last night. Had it reached me before I wrote to the Commissioners yesterday morning by Mr. Thos. Peter, I should have inclined more (although my wish is to have no trouble with the buildings) towards engaging Mr. Blagden's undertaking the Masonry, agreeably to his estimate; doing as much of the wood work *myself,* as my people are competent to, and employing others to do the remainder of it; the Painting, Plastering &ca; to the offer that was made Mr. Blagden, for compleating the *whole;* and furnishing every thing as therein expressed (except Painting, Glasing and Iron mongery): and if he boggles at that offer, I must proceed in this manner, to the Execution of the Work; and would be glad to have a contract entered into with him accordingly.

If this mode is adopted, I shall expect from Mr. Blagden, and without delay, a compleat Bill of Scantling and Plank; enumerating the quantity and quality; and the length, breadth and thickness of both scantling and Plank, to suit the different

[44] Prince Edward County, Va.

parts of the buildings, that I may take measures for obtaining them in the manner you have suggested. The length, width and thickness of the flooring plank ought to be specified; and whether Sap and knots are to be excluded. In short great particularity and exactness must be observed in making out the Bill, that every thing proper and useful may be had, without superfluity or waste. It would be expected of him too, to give the mouldings, and dimensions of such parts of the Work as would be prepared by my own people at *this place*.

It would be quite agreeable to me, that the foundation of the buildings should be laid this Autumn, if the weather will permit. At any rate, I conceive *all* the *foundation* Stone and sand should be carried to the Site. Sure I am, the Carting will be infinitely better before, than after Winter, and workmen I should think easier obtained. The materials must be good whether used in spring or Autumn.

The length of your letter, my good Sir, required no apology. It was kind, and I thank you for the details, as I shall do on similar future occasions. For the haste in which this letter is written I ought to ask your forgiveness. Mr. Law is waiting, and you know he does not wait patiently for any thing not even for dinner. If you can get at my meaning, my object will be answered. Complimts. to Mrs. Thornton from this family, and with very great esteem I am etc.[45]

## *To THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI[46]

Mount Vernon, October 20, 1798.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your favor of the 30th. of August, communicating the Resolve of the Cincinnati

[45] From the original in the *William Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[46] John F. Grimké, Thomas Pinckney, and Adam Gilchrist.

of the State of South Carolina respecting the propriety of altering the Ribband to which the badge of the Society was directed by the Constitution, to be appendant, as indicative of the Union between the United States and France; and have transmitted it to the Secretary General, to be laid before the Society at the next General meeting of its Delegates.[47]

With very great esteem etc.

## *To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1798.

Dear Sir: The last mail to Alexandria brought me a letter from the President of the United States, in which I am informed that he had signed, and given the Commissions to yourself, General Pinckney and Knox, the same date, in hopes that an amicable adjustment or acquiescence might take place among you. But, if these hopes should be disappointed, and controversies should arise, they will of course be submitted to me, as Commander in Chief, and if after all, any one should be so obstinate as to appeal to him from the judgment of the Commander in chief, he was determined to confirm that judgment.

General Knox is fully acquainted with my sentiments on this subject, and I hope no fresh difficulties will arise with General Pinckney. Let me entreat you therefore to give, without delay, your *full* Aid to the Secy of War. At present I will only add that I am always, &c.[48]

[47] The alteration of the ribbon, which by the constitution of the Cincinnati, was indicative of the union between the United States and France, was proposed because "It was thought that such a distinction was no longer applicable to the relative situation of the two countries and that it became incumbent on us at such a moment to renounce every military Badge or appearance of connection with a nation whose civil and political Union by Treaty had been declared by the Legislative authority of our Country to be void and no longer binding on Us." The committee's letter (Aug. 30, 1798) is in the *Washington Papers*.

[48] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

## *To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1798.

Sir: The letter with which you were pleased to honor me, dated the 9th. instant, was received by the last Mail; and demands my particular acknowledgments.

It was with sincere concern I received the account of Mrs. Adams's low state of health, and your consequent indisposition. If my fervent wishes would restore her, and you, to perfect health, this object would soon be accomplished; and in these wishes Mrs. Washington unites, with great cordiality. In her behalf, and for myself, I thank you for your kind wishes respecting us. She is as well as usual, and I am quite recovered of the fever with which I was afflicted sometime ago, and nearly so of the debility in which it left me.

If the Office of Adjutant General had been vacant by the non-acceptance of Mr. North, no one could have filled it more agreeably to my wishes than either of the Gentlemen suggested by me in the arrangement made with the Secretary of War. Of course General Dayton would have been an acceptable appointment. It appears, however, by a letter I have lately received from the War Office, that Mr. North has not declined the honor you did him. With great consideration and respect I have the honor &c.

## *To RAWLEIGH COLSTON

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1798.

Sir: It is not more than three or four days since your letter enclosing one from Mr. Thomas Marshall, has been received.

That Gentleman is, as I myself also am, in doubt whether more than one draught has not been made upon me by Colo.

Marshall, for the taxes which he has been so kind as to pay for my land in Kentucky. But as the voluminous papers which I brought from Philadelphia are not yet finally adjusted, and I am not in consequence, able to ascertain this fact by an easy reference to them; I shall pay to your order, on demand, the full balance as stated by Mr. T. Marshall, viz £17.7.3: leaving the sum of £8.17.3. to be[49] discounted hereafter, if, upon the assortment of my Papers it shall appear (as I think it will) that it has been paid to some one, authorised by Colo. Marshall to receive it. I am etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1798.

My dear Sir: Enclosed is a copy of the Presidents letter to me, which I request may be, with this letter, burnt as soon as they are read, and no more said respecting the contents than might be proper for him to hear repeated again; Otherwise, a knowledge that the contents of my letters to, and from him, are in possession of others, may induce him to believe, in good earnest, that intrigues are carrying on, in which I am an Actor. than which, nothing is more foreign from my heart.

I return the Press copies which were enclosed to me. But in future, whenever you require my opinion on any points, let them be stated in your letter, or on a paper to remain in my possession; without wch. my acts, and proceedings, will appear incomplete and misterious.

Do you mean to furnish me with a copy of the letter you wrote to the President from hence, and of his Instructions to

[49] Washington wrote this word, inadvertently, as "de."

you, or not? Long, long since I informed you that it would be extremely useful to me (if I was to have any hand in selecting the Officers for the four Regiments and Cavalry, proposed to be raised in the Southern division of the Union) to be furnished with a list of the Captains and Subalterns therein, who served in the Revolutionary Army but none has ever been sent. This, with the dates of their Commissions might be the means of coming at many valuable Officers and preventing many disputes hereafter.

Has Mr. Wolcott received any answer to his letter to the President? and to what effect.[50] You know that I am always &c.

P. S. It is sometime since Nelly Custis enclosed you a Post note, furnished by me, to discharge your advance for the Colours Has it ever been received? [51]

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th. instt. came by the last Mail. The enclosures are well calculated to effect their objects. But the explicit declaration contained in the one to General Knox, added to his knowledge of my sentiments on the subject of relative Rank, leaves little hope, in my mind, that he will obey your summons, and render his aid in the manner required of him.[52]

[50] McHenry replied (October 26): "The President has neither acknowledged nor answered Mr. Wolcotts letter. I suppose he does not intend any direct notice of it." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[51] In McHenry's reply (October 26), he also wrote: "I recd. one hundred dollars in a letter from Miss Custis which discharged my advance for the Colours. I mentioned to Nelly the obstruction that prevented the precuring of tassels &c."

[52] McHenry had written (October 16): "After therefore considerable deliberation, and as the most respectful course to him [President Adams], I at last was induced to transmit the commissions to Generals Hamilton and Knox, and to inform them, that I considered the order of nomination and approval by the Senate as determining their relative rank. I have also, my dear Sir, written to Generals Hamilton and Knox,

I hope no difficulty will occur with General Pinckney; and if he cannot be prevailed on to remain at the Seat of Government until the 10th of November, (the ulterior day allowed for the assembling of the Major Generals) that you will avail yourself of all his information relatively to the characters best qualified to Officer the Corps allotted to the States of South Carolina and Georgia; and as far as his knowledge extends, of those of No. Carolina and Tennessee also.

I have said in the beginning of this letter, that the enclosures were well calculated to effect their objects. but I must except that part of them which relates to the Officering of the New Corps in the Southern and Western States, as greatly inferior to the one I suggested in my last letter to you, dated the 15th. instant: first, because it involves more delay; and 2dly, because the chance of obtaining *good* Officers is not equal.

If the President of the United States, or the Secretary of War had a personal, and intimate knowledge of the characters of the applicants, the mode suggested by me would be indelicate and improper; but at such a distance, and in cases were information *must* govern, from whom (as I observed in my former letter) can it be so much relied on, as from those whose interest, honor, and reputation is pledged for its accuracy?

The applications are made, *chiefly* through members of Congress. These, oftentimes to get *rid* of them; oftener still perhaps, for local and Electioneering purposes, and to please and gratify their party, more than from any real merit in the applicant, are handed in, backed by a sollicitude to succed, in order to strengthen their interest. Possibly, no injustice would be done, if I was to proceed a step further and give it as an

calling them into service, and soliciting their presence, as soon as possible, and in all events by the 10th of November proximo. I suggested also to the President that it would be desireable I should be authorised to require your attendance, and that his own presence would be important and give facility to all measures relative to this meeting." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

opinion, that most of the candidates brought forward by the opposition members, possess sentiments similar to their own, and might poison the army by disseminating them, if they were appointed. If, however, the plan suggested by you is to be adopted, indeed in any case, you will no doubt see the propriety of obtaining all the information you can from Majr. General Pinckney; and if he accepts his appointment, and cannot be prevailed on to remain with you until the other Majr. Generals assemble, to request him to call on Brigr. General Davie on his route to Charleston, and after a full, and free conversation with him on fit characters to Officer the quota of Troops from the States of No. Carolina (and Tennessee if he can aid in it) to inform you of the result, *without delay.*

I hardly think it will be in my power to attend at Trenton or Philadelphia at the time alloted to the Majr. Generals. 1st. because I am yet in a convalescent State (although perfectly recovered of the fever) so far at least as to avoid exposure, and consequent Colds, 2dly, My Secretary (Mr. Lear) has had a severe fever, and is now very low; and sevl. others of my family much indisposed; and 3dly. and principally, because I see no definitive ground to proceed upon, if I should go, from anything that has hitherto appeared. Nor is it probable you will have received the Presidents Instructions, and Genl. Knox's answer, in time to serve me with notice of the results, by the 10th. of November. I mean for me to get there; on, or about that day.

If General Pinckney could be prevailed on to remain with you, and there was a moral certainty of meeting Generals Hamilton and Knox, I would, maugre the inconveniences, and hazard I might run, attempt to join them, for the valuable purpose of projecting a Plan in *concert* with you; and them, which might be ineffectually accomplished at a partial meeting.

I shall, therefore, stand prepared, as well as the situation of things will admit, and wait your *full* communications on these several points, and govern myself accordingly. With great esteem etc.

## *To HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1798.

My dear Sir: Several causes have concurred, to retard the acknowledgment of the receipt of your favour of the 26th. of August. At the time it came to hand, I was much engaged in matters that could not be well postponed; and before I got through them, I was seized with a fever which was unremittingly severe for several days, and left me in so debilitated a state as to render writing, and business generally (when it could be avoided) not only irksome, but improper, and was forbidden by my Physicians.

During this state of convalescence, letters which required prompt attention, were pouring in upon me. This state of things; not knowing what the Presidents final decision would be; and not perceiving that I could say more to you on the subject of relative rank than I had done in former letters, unless to dilate on the several points which had before been touched, (and this appeared to me unnecessary, as your own ideas would anticipate all I could say) I delayed from day to day to do what I am now in the act of doing, that is writing to you.

I can again, my dear Sir, with much truth and sincerity repeat to you, the declaration made on a former occasion, namely, that if an amicable arrangement of precedence could have been settled between Generals Hamilton, Pinckney, and yourself, previous to the nominations, it wd. have been *perfectly* satisfactory to me; but driven as I was, to make it myself, at the time, and in the manner it was transmitted, I was governed by the

best view, and best evidence I could obtain of the public sentiment relative thereto. The Senate acted upon it under an impression it was to remain so, and in that light the matter is understood by the Public; and it would be uncandid not to add, that I have found no cause since to believe, I mistook that sentiment. Let me add further, that as an Army was to be raised de novo; fourteen years after the Revolutionary Troops had ceased to exist that I do not see how any Resolution of the Ancient Congress can apply at this day, to the Officers of that Army. If it does, and the matter is viewed by others as it is by you, will any field officer of that army serve under General Dayton? Would it not deprive the President of the advantage of selection and arrangement? and what difficulties and perplexities would not follow if this idea and conduct should prevail generally? Accompanied with the opinion which you seem to have imbibed of incidental Rank. Few knowing, and deserving officers of this description would feel very easy under such a decision, or be content with a *feather,* if they conceived that *Rank* meant *nothing* when inserted in their Commissions.

On what ground did the Baron de Steuben command a separate Corps in the State of Virginia in the year 1781. and Colo. Hamilton a select one at the Siege of York, if Incidental Rank does not give command according to circumstances and the discretion of the Commanding General?

But I am running into details which I did not intend. It would (if you could reconcile it to your own feelings) give me sincere pleasure to see you in the augmented Corps, a Major General.

We shall have either *no War* or a *severe contest* with France; in either case, if you will allow me to express my opinion, this is the most eligable time for you to come forward. In the first case to assist with your council and aid in making judicious

provisions and arrangements to avert it. In the other case, to share in the glory of defending your Country; and by making all secondary considerations yield to that great and primary object, display a mind superior to embarrassing punctilios, at so critical a moment as the present.

After having expressed these sentiments with the frankness of undisguised friendship it is hardly necessary to add that, if you should, finally, decline the appointment of Majr. General,[53] that there is no one to whom I would give a more decided preference as an Aid de Camp, the offer of which is highly flattering, honorable, and grateful to my feelings, and for which I entertain a high sense. But, my dear Genl Knox, (and here again I speak to you in the language of candour, and friendship) examine well your mind on this subject. Do not unite yourself to the Suit of a man whom you may consider as the primary cause of what you call a degradation, with unpleasant sensations. This, while it was gnawing upon you, would (if I should come to the knowledge of it) make me unhappy; as my first wish would be that my Military family, and the whole Army, should consider themselves as a band of brothers, willing and ready, to die for each other. I shall add no more than assurances of the sincere friendship and affection with which I am, &c.

## *To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, October 22, 1798.

Gentlemen: Your favor of the 18th. instt, enclosing a letter from Mr. Blagdin of the same date, came duly to hand, and although I am perfectly satisfied by doing the Carpenters and

[53] On October 23 Knox wrote to the Secretary of War, definitely refusing the commission of major general. In his letter of August 26, Knox offers to serve as an aide. A copy of the letter of October 23 and the original of that of August 26 are in the *Washington Papers*.

Joiners work with my own People, by a correct Bill of the materials required, and obtained from a reputable Mill on the Eastern Shore to suit the buildings, that I could save a thousand dollars under that head alone, yet, to avoid trouble to myself, to avoid disputes between workmen, having no controul over, but acting independently of each other; to avoid sending Negro Carpenters to the City, and having them to provide for there; and above all, taking into consideration what may, eventually, happen next year, and my employment in consequence. I have resolved to agree to Mr. Blagdin's terms: that is, to give him Eleven thousand dollars to build the two houses, according to the plan agreed on, and agreeably to the specification which has been presented to me; and must be produced and refered to, as the criterian by which the work is to be judged. I, taking upon myself the execution of the Painting and Glasing; and furnishing the Iron Mongery agreeeably to the Bill which he exhibited; the quantity of nails not to over-run the specification; that is, by allowing him the amount of *that* item, he is entitled to no further call upon me for an increase.

I have never entered into a contract of this sort, and of course little skilled in drawing one; for which reason, it would be an act of kindness if you would cause efficient articles to be drawn under your Inspection and correction:[54] the cost of wch. I am willing to pay. Whatever is customary on the part of the *Employer,* I am willing to comply with; nothing occurs to me as necessary, at present, except defraying the cost; and this I am ready to do by depositing the means in the Bank of Columbia, to be drawn for by a Gentleman in the City, upon Mr. Blagdin's producing Bills of cost, of the materials for carrying on the Work, and the amount of Workmens wages, every Month, fortnight, or week, as shall be stipulated.

[54] The "Letter Book" has "direction."

On the part of the *Employed* I presume there are many essentials, requiring him to be bound to the performance of. And is it not necessary, and usual, that these should be secured by Bondsmen?

But I will add no more on a Subject with which you are much better acquainted than I am. I shall be punctual in the fulfillment of my part of the agreement, and only wish to have the counter part equally well observed. For I find, including the price of the Lots and enclosing them, with the cost of the buildings, in the manner I am proceeding, the Rent I shall be able to obtain, will scarcely give me common interest for the money that will be expended. But having put my hand to the work I must not now look back. With very great esteem etc.[55]

## *To THOMAS MARSHALL, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, October 22, 1798.

Sir: Your favor of the 4th. of August came safe to my hands under cover from Mr. Colston, whom I have authorised to draw upon me for the full balanec as stated in the a/c transmitted by you.

It dwells however upon my mind (but not perfectly) that the first item therein, viz, £8.17.3 has been paid to some person who appeared authorised to receive it; but as my voluminous Papers (brought from Philadelphia) are not yet all opened and assorted, I am not able to ascertain this fact, or speak with the least decision on the subject, and therefore have, as before mentioned, desired Mr. Colston to draw upon me, in favor of his correspondent in Alexa, for the whole amount.

If, hereafter, it should be recollected by Colo. Marshall, or appear by any receipt I shall find, that the above sum of £8.17.3 has been paid, it can be allowed in the next account.

[55] From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

I feel much obliged by your kindness in paying the Taxes of my land upon Rough Creek, for the years 1796 and 1797; and for the services you have rendered me in entering them at the Auditors Office for future taxes, agreeably to your late Act of Assembly, relative to Non-residents. and you would add to the obligation by continuing to pay the dues thereon as they arise, and drawing upon me for the amt.

But previous to this, let me request the favour of you to enquire of Mr. Short (if you should see him) whether he has done any thing in this matter, or not; for not having heard for a long time in what Situation, or jeopardy the Land might be, Genl. Spotswood who had business to transact with that Gentleman, and he understood it was threatened, was requested to ask him to examine, and do what was needful to rescue it, if really in danger, from the threatned evil, which he kindly promised to do. My best wishes and respects are offered to Colo. Marshall. I am etc.

## *To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 22, 1798.

Dear Sir: To what cause, or causes, the delay in appointing Officers upon the "Act, to augment the Army of the United States, and for other purposes" is to be ascribed, I am unable to say. I fear the spirit that was enkindled at the time of its Passing has not a little evaporated.

No decisive plan has yet been formed for this purpose, that has come to my knowledge; but the Secretary of War having intimated to me the probability, that four of the twelve Regiments, and the Six Troops of Dragoons would be apportioned to the States south of Maryland; including Kentucky and Tennessee; and requesting me, to furnish him, with the names of

suitable characters for the different grades of Officers for these Corps; transmitting at the sametime a list of the Applicants, and of the Field Officers of the Revolutionary Army who had served to the end of the War, I am willing to render him all the aid in my power but am unable to do it efficiently, without the assistance of others, more intimately acquainted with the late Southern Army then I was.

I take the liberty therefore, in a private, and confidential way, to request you, General Marshall and Colo. Heth (in all of whom I can confide) to meet together, as soon as you can, with any sort of convenience, and note such characters in the different grades as you conceive best qualified, and would do most honor to their country, in an *active* and *spirited* war; if such were to be engaged in, as Officers.

To enable you to do this, and with a view to remind you of the old field Officers, as well as the present applicants, I send you, 1st: a list of the former; 2dly. a list of the latter, their places of residence, Rank *applied* for, and by whom recommended; and 3dly. Pursuing the principle of the Secretary an apportionment of these four Regiments and Six Troops of Dragoons among the Southern and Western States; by a medium between the Representation, and population of each. These Papers to be retained with the selected list.

You will perceive that this request relates more immediately to Virginia, but if there are any prominent characters in either of the others, for either grade of Officers, it would be obliging to mention them also.

You will perceive further, that by the apportionment, a precise number of Officers, of the different grades, are required; but in your Selection, I had rather you should *exceed,* than fall *short;* and that I may understand the estimation in which they are held, let them be placed numerically.

In making your selection of *Company* Officers, some attention (as well for the benefit of Recruiting, as other considerations) should be had to a distribution of them through the States. And where old Officers of celebrity, fit for the different grades can be obtained; who are in the prime of life, habituated to no bad courses, and are known to be well affected, they ought to be preferred. Next to these, young Gentlemen (not youths) of good educations and characters; and as far as it can be ascertained before hand, possessing a high sense of honor and love of Country should be brought forward, but in neither case a professed, or known enemy to Government, should be selected; for the same principles which lead them to oppose the Civil Administration of their Country wd. operate equally against the Military; and Caballing and Parties would soon be the result.

You will please to consider this letter, its enclosures and all I have said on the subject as communicated in Confidence. and for particular reasons it is wished, that I may receive the result of your meeting and consultation soon, at any rate before the first or 2d. of next month.

With very great esteem etc.

P. S. If circumstances should prevent writing of all, the opinion of two, or yourself alone is desired

## *To HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, October 23, 1798.

My dear Sir: The enclosed, although of old date, is just come to hand. And believing you are still the Secretary Generl. of the Society of the Cincinnati, I transmit it to you; to be laid before the next General meeting of its Delegates; as there is no probability that I shall be at it myself.

Since my letter to you of the 21st. I have received one from the Secretary of War, informing me of General Pinckney's arrival, and acceptance of his Appointment in the Army of the United States; and his request that the Major Generals of the Augmented force would be at Trenton, or Philadelphia, by the 10th. of next month; expressing at the sametime, an earnest wish that I would be present. Inconvenient as it will be to me, and perhaps hazardous, I will make exertion to be there at that time; and I need not add, that it would give me pleasure to find you among them; as many important points will come before them. I am &c.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 23, 1798.

Dear Sir: It gave me very sincere pleasure to find by your letter of the 17th., recd. last night, that Genl Pinckney accepts his Appointment in the Army of the United States.

If it would not be too inconvenient for him to remain at the Seat of Government until the 10th. of next month (the ulterior day, allotted for the Assembling of the Majors General at Trenton or Philadelphia) and you would advise me thereof, *immediately,* I would make every exertion in my power to meet them at that time.

For a variety of reasons, which will readily occur, the sooner such a meeting could take place the better; and perhaps no time, season, or circumstances, would be more convenient than the one proposed; nor more eligable for the purpose of concerting a Plan, upon general hypothesis; and rectifying, as far as possible, the evils which have proceeded from delay in Recruitg. With great esteem etc.

## *To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM RICHARDSON DAVIE

Mount Vernon, October 24, 1798.

Sir: I am not informed of the cause, or causes which have impeded the appointed of the Regimental Officers agreeably to the Act "To augment the Army of the United States, and for other purposes." The want of which has, of course, (unpropitiously it is to be feared) retarded the Recruiting Service; nor do I know that any plan is yet adopted to effect either of these purposes.

But the Secretary of War having suggested to me, that it was probable four of the twelve Regiments of Infantry, and the Six Troops of light Dragoons would be raised in the States South of the Potomac, including Kentucky and Tennessee, and requesting me to give him assistance in selecting proper characters for Officers in the different grades therefor, I know of no expedient so likely to give it efficiency as to call upon the General Officers in each State, lately nominated by the President, for their aid; the presumption being, that the Reputation of the Army, in which they may have to act a conspicuous part, and their own honour and responsibility will put them above local attachments, and self interested views; and consequently, produce more circumspection in the Selection of fit and proper characters for Officers, than is likely to be obtained by any other means. It is on this ground I have taken the liberty to address you, and hope for an excuse.

Pursuing, the principle, by wch. the Secretary of War seems to have been governed; about a Regiment of Infantry, and a Troop of Dragoons would fall to the lot of No Carolina and Tennessee. Say nine companies of the first and the company

of Dragoons to the former, and a company of Infantry to the latter.

To assist you as much as is in my power, in the accomplishment of this work, I enclose to you a list of all the field Officers of the No. Carolina line, who served to the close of the Revolutionary War; and a list of the present applicts. for Commissions; designating their places of residence, the Rank they solicit, and by whom recommended, or brot. forward.

My opinion is, that in making a selection of the *field* Officers, an entire range of the State should be taken; but, in the company Officers, regard should be had to distribution; as well for the purpose of facilitating the Recruiting service as for other considerations: and, where Officers of *celebrity* in the revolutionary army can be obtained; who are yet in the prime of life; habituated to no bad courses, and well disposed; that a preference ought to be given to them. Next to these, gentlemen of character; liberal education; and, as far as the fact can be ascertained from inexperience, men who will face danger in any shape it can appear; for if we have a land war, it will be sharp and severe. I must beg leave to add that all violent opposers of the Government, and French Partisans should be avoided; or they will disseminate the poison of their principles in the Army, and split, what ought to be a band of brothers, into parties.

As this application is hypothetical (no decided plan being formed) you will please to consider *it* and the contents of this letter, in *all its parts* as given in confidence. The Papers you will be so good as to return, with the selection of the Officers for the Troops I have mentioned for the States of No Carolina and Tennessee; and, for a very particular reason, the sooner it could be done and sent me the more agreeable it would be.

It might not be amiss to set down the names of more officers, of each grade, than are really wanting for the Regiment and

Troop; but that I may know the estimation in which they stand you will be pleased to place those of each grade, numerically. With very great esteem &c.

## *To THE OFFICERS OF THE TENTH AND NINETY-FIRST REGIMENTS OF THE VIRGINIA MILITIA

Mount Vernon, October 24, 1798.

Gentlemen: While I thank you for your kind and very flattering Address, and the pleasure which I received from your approbation of my acceptance of the Commission which may once more bring me into public life, I am sure you will do justice to the motives which have operated to draw me from that peaceful retirement, which, I fondly hoped, would never again have been interrupted.

When injuries and Insults have been heaped upon us, and when the Sovereignty and Independence of our Country are threatned, it is, in my opinion, no longer in the option of a good Citizen to withhold his Services from the Public. Let his situation be what it may, he forfeits all claim to the rights of one, if, in such a critical moment, he should not use every means in his power to aid in repelling the unprovoked and indignant [*sic*] aggression.

Upon this ground I have accepted my Commission; and upon this ground I trust that every true American will be prepared to defend his Country against foreign encroachments; and to perpetuate the blessings which he enjoys under his own Government.

That there may be no occasion to gird on the Sword, none more ardently prays than I do; and no one, with more truth could add, that, if unfortunately, in defence of our rights we shall be compelled to unsheath I hope, after the object is attained, would return it to its Scabbard with more heart-felt

satisfaction. But to avert the evil, or to meet it like men it is necessary under the present aspect of our Affairs to hold it in our hands, and be united in one band.

Your prayers, and kind wishes in my behalf, I reciprocate with great Cordiality

## *To THOMAS LAW

Mount Vernon, October 24, 1798.

Dear Sir: You letter of the 17th. instant was handed to me by Mr. Lear, and I should have sent you the enclosed check on the Bank of Alexandria for two hundred and fifty dollars sooner, had we not expected you at this place on friday or Saturday last, according to promise, and been looking for you every day since.

All I ask is, that you would have me secured in the loan of this sum, for the purpose of erecting a Hotel for Mr. Turnicliff,[56] in the same manner you do the $750 lent on your own A/c.

The family here unite in love and best wishes for Mrs. Law, Eliza and yourself; and I am, with great esteem etc.

## *To REVEREND G. W. SNYDER

Mount Vernon, October 24, 1798.

Revd Sir: I have your favor of the 17th. instant before me; and my only motive to trouble you with the receipt of this letter, is to explain, and correct a mistake which I perceive the hurry in which I am obliged, often, to write letters, have led you into.

It was not my intention to doubt that, the Doctrines of the Illuminati, and principles of Jacobinism had not spread in

[56] William Tunnicliff.

the United States. On the contrary, no one is more truly satisfied of this fact than I am.

The idea that I meant to convey, was, that I did not believe that the *Lodges* of Free Masons in *this* Country had, as *Societies,* endeavoured to propagate the diabolical tenets of the first, or pernicious principles of the latter (if they are susceptible of seperation). That Individuals of them may have done it, or that the *founder,* or *instrument* employed to found, the Democratic Societies in the United States, may have had these objects; and actually had a seperation of the *People* from their *Government* in view, is too evident to be questioned.

My occupations are such, that but little leisure is allowed me to read News Papers, or Books of any kind; the reading of letters, and preparing answers, absorb much of my time. With respect, etc.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your letters of the 15th. and 20th Instant; and received great satisfaction from the communications in both.

That General Pinckney not only accepts his appointment in the Army of the United States, but accompanies the acceptance with declara[t]ions so open and candid, as those made to General Hamilton, affords me sincere pleasure. It augers well of the aid that may be expected from his Services.

---

On October 24 Washington wrote to Bushrod Washington: "I think you are perfectly right in accepting the appointment of Associate Judge, [of the United States Supreme Court] not only for the reasons you have mentioned but on every other account. . . . The Elections in New Jersey are not favourable, and in Pennsylvania, so far as we have heard, are bad. What these and such like will produce, is left for wiser heads than mine to foretell. I auger very ill of them. I wish your Circuit may be pleasant and honorable to you and that you may return safe to your family and friends. The season is propitious for a Southern tour, and I hope your attention to the duties of your present office will give satisfaction." This extract was printed in a sales catalogue, 1921. Bushrod Washington's letter, to which this is answer, is dated October 19, and is in the *Washington Papers.*

I should suppose that a correspondence between the Department of State, and the Governors of Individual States, would be attended with salutary consequences, whilst no evil that I can perceive, would flow from it. By such communications as would be proper to make to them, the well disposed part would be possessed of useful information; and those of a contrary description would, in many cases, be bereft of a plea which they often make, the want of it. To enable you to do this, and to execute with ease the other important duties of your Office, you ought, certainly, to be allowed all the Aid that is necessary.

If Mr. Gerry has it in his power to dispel the cloud that hovers over him, I wish on account of his Country; for his own sake; and as the only attonement he can make to his Colleagues for his seperate transactions, and secret conduct with the French Minister, that he would come forward with an open, and manly representation of all the circumstances that occurred, and governed in that business. Though nothing can excuse his *secret* negociations, a measure of this sort is the only One I can see, that can irradicate unfavorable suspicions. I fear however, that *vanity,* which may have led him into the mistake, and consciousness of being *duped* by the *Diplomatic Skill* of our good, and magnanimous Allies are too powerful for a weak mind to overcome. With very great esteem, &c.

## *To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1798.

My dear Sir: The enclosures transmited in your letter of the 20th. instant are retd.

I derived great pleasure from General Pin[c]kneys declaration to General Hamilton; and wish you to inform him, that I feel happy in the thought of having him as a Coadjutor, if our disputes with France are to be decided by the Sword.

Let me hear from you as soon as possible on the subject of my last letters to you, dated the 21st. and 23d. Instant, and be assured of the sincere esteem and regard of Your affectionate

## *To RICHARD BLAND LEE

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 18th. Inst: has been duly received.

Your application for an appointment in the Provisional Army (if one should be necessary) required no explanation. The application, and the manner in which it was made, do honor to you as a Citizen and Patriot; and affords a pleasing specimen of what may be expected from the lovers of order, good government and the rights of their Country, if either should be invaded. I can assure you that, to see your name on the list of Candidates, afforded me pleasure; and the sentiments with which it was accompanied, were praise worthy. With great esteem etc.

## To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1798.

Gentlemen: When Mr. Blagden came here yesterday with your favor of the 25 inst, and the plans, specification &c. of my houses I was out on my usual ride about my farms, and when I returned home, I found Company, which prevented my answering your letter by him.

The sketch of an agreement enclosed in your letter, comports fully with my ideas.[57] I have made one or two trifling alterations in it in consequence of some conversation with Mr. Blagden, and I now take the liberty to enclose two Copies

[57] Drafts of the Articles of Agreement with Blagdin for building these houses are in the *Washington Papers* at the end of October, 1798. Blagdin signs his name to it "Blagdin."

of the Agreement and an additional Copy of the specifications. The agreements are drawn in unstamped paper; but I presume it may be stamped in George Town. If it cannot be done there, Doctr Thornton will be so good as to have new agreements drawn for me on stamped paper.

I pray you, Gentlemen, to accept my best thanks for the trouble you have had in this business, which I assure you I should not have given, had I not been induced to build these houses more with a view to promote the necessary improvements in the City, than for any expectation of private emolument from them. With great respect etc.[58]

## *To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, October 28, 1798.

Dear Sir: When Mr. Blagden came here on friday, I was engaged in my usual ride; from which I only returned a little before dinner, and found Mr. and Mrs. Law, with Govr. Crawford and his lady here. These circumstances, and Mr. Blagden's return immediately after dinner, allowed me no time to acknowledge the receipt of your obliging favor of the 25th. Instant.

For the information you have been so kind as to give me relatively to General Lee's City property, I thank you; but I had no idea of allowing him more for half lots than whole ones were to be obtained at.

If you have determined, to build a house or houses of similar elivation with those I am contracting for, you shall be extremely welcome to avail yourself of my end wall and to run up your Chimneys accordingly, without any allowance being made therefor (which I cannot accept) as the kindnesses I have received from you greatly overpays any little convenience or

[58] The draft, in the writing of Tobias Lear, is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

benefit you can derive from my Wall. If Mr. Frost is disposed to build a house *immediately,* or very soon; and will give it an accordant elevation, it would be agreeable to me that he should erect Chimnies on the South end similar to your's on the North end of my buildings. With respect to your *own* accomodation you will please to give Mr. Blagden such Instructions when he enters upon the Walls as to suit your views perfectly.

Whether, as there is water so handy, it be necessary to sink a Well, is a matter that circumstances must regulate. If one should be dug, I would range it with the partition Wall of the buildings, that if ever they are occupied as distinct houses, one Pump with two leavers and pipes may subserve both.

I am in sentiment with you and Mr. Law, that a five feet Area is too narrow; but whence the remedy? If the regulations will not allow more, and cannot be altered, it must be indured, or the buildings must recede from the Street which would be exceptionable in another respect.

Although the Commissioners have been obliging, and ready throughout the whole of this business to render me every aid I could wish, and am I persuaded would continue to do it; yet, as I shall be bound by Contract (with Mr. Blagden) to supply his wants, agreeably to the Conditions of it, and this can be accomplished with more ease by an Individual than by the Board; the setting of which, at times, may be impeded by the absence of some of its members when most inconvenient for his calls; and as you reside in the City, and always there; and have moreover been so obliging as to offer to receive the Bills and pay their amount (when presented by Mr. Blagden) I will avail myself of the kindness: and accordingly, send a Check upon the Bank of Columbia, which will carry a credit of five hundred dollars (left there) when I was in the City last, to be drawn for by you, for the above purpose, as occasion may require: and at all times on notice being given, the Bank shall be replenished,

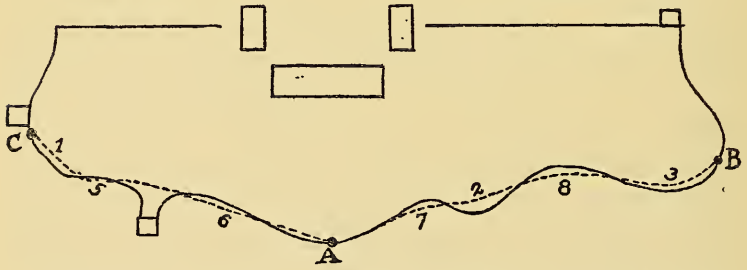
and subject to your draughts to satisfy the Bills of expenditure, of which you will be so good as to inform Mr. Blagden.

Upon conversing more fully with Mr. Blagden upon the frontispiece of the Doors, and considering that to make them of Stone instead of Wood, will add durability to the work, I have agreed to allow the difference, viz $150 that they may be executed with the latter. And as he represented in strong terms, the wishes of Mr. Francis that a part of the Cellars should be vaulted, for the benefit of Wine, I have agreed to this also. He thinks the additional cost may amount to $100 dollars more; but having made no estimate thereof it shall be charged at what it really stands him.

Whether he begins, or not, to lay the foundation of the building this Autumn, he ought by all means to have the Stone and sand on the spot to begin early in the Spring. The carting now, is so much better than it will be then, that he must find this an eligable measure. His lime too ought to be secured, and his flooring Plank to be good and procured early, tried up, and seasoned, or the floors will shrink. With very great esteem etc.[59]

## *RIVER FRONT WALL

[October, 1798?]




Suppose the dot at A to be the highest part of the hill in front of the house, and the black line from B to C the natural

[59] From the *William Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

shape of the hill (or fall of the hill) the pricked line may be a good direction for the wall, in order to prevent its being too serpentine or crooked, this, in some places, will come in upon the level (or that which is nearly so) of the hill, as at 1, 2, 3, and in others as at 5, 6, 7, and 8 will be below the declivity, and require filling up in order to bring the whole to a level, which is to be effected by the earth which may be taken from 1, 2, 3,

There are two reasons for doing it in this manner, the one is, to prevent the wall from being too serpentine and crooked (as the black line), and the second is, that the hill below the wall may be more of a sameness, otherwise it w'd descend very suddenly in some places and very gradually in others.

You will observe that this wall is not to be laid out, or worked by a line, the whole of it is serpentine, which I am particular in mentioning lest by the expression in your letter of zig-zag, you had an idea that it was to be laid out by line 20 or 30 feet or yards (as the hill would admit) one way, then angling and as far as it would go strait another in the follow'g man'r

It is not my wish to have it very serpentine nor would I have it quite strait if I could, a little curving and meandering would be my choice.[60]

[60] From the original in private hands. The assigned date is problematical. (See "Work for the Bricklayers" with the letter to James Anderson, Nov. 1, 1798, *post.*)

# INDEX

# INDEX

*By* David M. Matteson


Accounts, claims, and warrants, presidential, 85; Mount Vernon, observations, 110, 111, 151–155, 254, 257, 258; irregular payment, 294; Lear and Washington's, 299–301, 316. *See also* Estates; Finances.

Adams, Abigail (Smith), illness, 501.

Adams, *Pres.* John, Coxe, 145*n*; public buildings in federal district, 190; X Y Z crisis, message, 191, 239; letters to, 291, 312, 327, 453, 501; Mount Vernon, 291, 292; public support, 292, 312*n*, 328; Washington's command of army, letter, 311–315, 312*n*, 326*n*, 327–329; rank of major generals, letters, 324*n*, 330, 426*n*, 432, 441*n*, 442, 447–449, 448*n*, 453–464, 462*n*, 463*n*, 475–477, 500, 502, 503, 503*n*; Washington's relations, 479; *Works,* 448*n*; illness, 501; appointment of Bushrod Washington, 519*n*.

Addison, *Judge* Alexander, letters to, 297, 370; pamphlet and oration, 280; Washington's land affairs, 370–372.

Addresses and replies, to Washington Academy, 283; militia, 428, 517; on French crisis, 428–430, 517; localities, 429.

Adet, Pierre Auguste, X Y Z mission, 108; Jay Treaty, 221, 222.

Adjutant general, required character, 309; appointment, 331, 356 *n,* 375, 403, 410, 426*n*, 433, 442, 454, 456, 462, 463*n*, 501.

*Adriana,* 322.

Advice and admonitions, young Custis, college, study, routine, 20–22, 117, 118, 187, 188, 245, 259, 288, 363; manager, 111–114, 151–155, 266–270, 284–287; on early rising, 118; bank employee, 149; poor relation, 162.

*Africa,* H. M. S., *Medusa* affair, 234.

Agriculture, reports of British Board, 20, 322; satisfaction, 65; Anderson's essays, 66; Sinclair's surveys and pamphlets, 66, 68, 321; Parkinson's work, 80; labor conditions, 107. *See also* Animals; Implements; Mount Vernon; products by name.

Aides. *See* Military secretary.

Alderson, George, sheriff, Washington's taxes, 110, 129.

Alexander, William, as officer, 334.

Alexandria, Va., Washington's lots and house, rent, acquirement, 25, 75, 77, 299, 317, 336, 337, 391, 392, 439; charity, 137*n*; growth, 264; colors for Silver Greys, 368, 380, 418, 418*n*, 503, 503*n*; inefficiency at post-office, 386; dinner to Marshall, 420*n*.

Alexandria Academy, young Custis, 170; Washington's subscription, 317.

Alexandria postmaster, letter to, 386.

Almonds, order, 175.

American Revolution, Boucher's book on causes, 413.

American Philosophical Society, Bucknall's work, 66.

Ames, Fisher, Bent, 404.

Ammunition, for French war, 425.

Anderson, James, manager, and lease, 31; advertisement, 35*n*; letters to, 77, 110, 153, 266, 283; plan for frontier land, 77–79; accounts, Washington's observations, 110, 111, 151–155; commendation and criticism, 111–114, 277, 278, 284–287; distillery, 112, 139, 141, 154, 177, 302; resentment, proposed retirement, 266–269, 279; proposed new arrangement, 269, 270, 283–287; Alexandria lots, 337; hiring overseers, 450, 451.

Anderson, *Dr.* James, letters to, 64, 364; gardener for Mount Vernon, 64, 365; new abode, 65; Washington's land, 65; gift of agricultural works, 66; health, literary work, 364.

Anderson, John, son of James, 6; distillery, 154, 177.

Anderson, Richard Clough, as officer, 334; letter to, 377; Washington's Miami land, 377, 378, 378*n*.

Antigua, sheep and plants from and to, 426, 427.

Ariss, John, draft, 282.

Armed neutrality, free ships, free goods, 236.

Arms, for provisional army, importation, 443; character, 479. *See also* Arsenals; Artillery.

Armstrong, Edward A., acknowledgments to, 64*n*, 379*n*, 409*n*, 422*n*.

Armstrong, James, army command, 493.

Army, memoranda on provisional, 279; necessary character, 307–310; preparations, 335, 395, 403, 406, 410–412, 417, 424; quotas, 491. *See also* Artillery; Cavalry; Military stores; Officers; Recruiting; Staff.

Arsenals, Potomac River site, 54, 253, 318.

Artillery, of provisional army, command, 360; officers, 366, 488; importation, 443.

Ashe, James, letter to, 372; army appointment, 372.

Ashton, Burdett, position, 171; wife, 171*n*.

Askins, John, land case, 44.

Asses, advertisement of sale, 35*n*.

Athill, James, letter to, 426; exchanges, 426, 427; Mount Vernon, 426.

Atkinson, Guy, dog, 114.
Aurora. *See* Bache, Benjamin Franklin.

Bache, Benjamin Franklin, spurious letters, 50; charges against Pickering, reply, 156; Monroe's mission and *View,* 194 *n,* 225; French crisis, 249, 254, 299; Washington's sarcasm, 368.
Ball, Burges, as officer, 334.
Baltimore *Telegraph,* political character, 7.
Bank of Alexandria, Washington's proposed loan, 482, 483, 486.
Bank of Columbus, Washington's stock, 28–30.
Bank of Pennsylvania, letter to, 480; bond, 480.
Barbary Powers, Algerian negotiations, 203; France and American relations, 221, 229.
Barker, ——, Washington's affairs, 107.
Barlow, Joel, Barbary affairs, 204.
Barns, lumber for new, 237, 238, 251, 294.
Barry, ——, letter to, 55; flour, 55; Law, 115.
Barton, Benjamin Smith, debt to Washington, 146, 147, 411.
Bassett, Burwell [1], Washington's frontier land, 130, 131.
Bassett, Burwell [2], letters to, 122, 159; corn for Mount Vernon, 122, 140, 159.
Bassett, John, bears letter, 30.
Batton, ——, overseer for Mount Vernon, 450.
Baylies, Hodijah, as officer, 333.
Beall, *Mrs.* ——, land rent, 126, 127.
Belknap, Andrew Elliot, letter to, 485; subscriptions to father's work, 485.
Belknap, *Rev.* Jeremy, letters to, 290, 327; X Y Z address, 290; work on American biography, subscriptions, 290–293, 295, 296, 327, 485; death, 362.
Bent, *Lieut.* Lemuel, army appointment, 379, 404; service, 379*n*.
Beres, Pierre, letter possessed by, 297*n*.
Berkeley County, W. Va. (Va.), Washington's land, 282; recruiting, 379.
Biddle, Clement, letters to, 9, 15, 17, 27, 32, 47, 79, 123, 145, 174, 177, 188, 241, 276, 294, 373, 411, 434; Washington's affairs, supplies, accounts, 9–11, 15–17, 27, 32, 47, 79, 108, 123, 145–148, 155, 174, 175, 177, 178, 188, 241, 242, 276, 294, 295, 373, 386, 411, 434; financial condition, 109, 139, 139*n*; fugitive slave, 123, 124, 146, 148.

Bills of exchange, foreign, 67.
Biography, Belknap's work on American, subscriptions, 290–293, 295, 296, 327, 485.
Bioren, John, imprint, 33*n*.
Blacksmith, at Mount Vernon, need, 148; accounts, 152; redemptioner, 178.
Blagdin, George, Washington's houses in the District, 471, 483, 495, 498, 499, 508–510, 521–524; at Mount Vernon, 522.
Bland, Richard, projected history of Virginia, 290.
Blodget, William, as officer, 333.
Bloomfield, Joseph, as officer, 333.
Blount, William, intrigue, before Congress, 8.
Bonaventure, E. F., acknowledgment to, 326*n*.
Booker, William, threshing machine, 37, 38, 247, 252; letters to, 247, 252.
Bookkeeping, study, 422.
Books, for Washington, 8, 11, 17, 20, 27, 66, 84, 90, 146, 155, 156, 178, 181, 188, 281, 322, 373, 411, 413, 452; Washington and subscriptions, 9.
Bordley, John Beale, gift of work, 8.
Botetourt County, Va., Washington's land, 131, 132.
Boucher, *Rev.* Jonathan, letter to, 413; work, dedication to Washington, 413.
Bradley, Philip Burr, as officer, 333.
Brigadier generals. *See* General officers.
Brooke, John, housekeeper for Mount Vernon, 76.
Brooke, Robert, letter to, 55; housekeeper for Mount Vernon, 55, 56, 58, 76, 77; slave cook, 70.
Brookes, ——, carpenter for Mount Vernon, 446, 450.
Brooks, John, army command, 331, 356*n*.
Broome, William Temple, letter to, 361; aideship, 361.
Brown, ——, cook for Mount Vernon, 149.
Brown, *Dr.* Gustavus Richard, military position, 385; Washington's last illness, 385*n*.
Brown, Matthew, letter to, 35*n*; advertisement, 35*n*.
Brown, *Dr.* William, 385*n*.
Buchan, David Stewart Erskine, *earl* of, letter to, 261 *n*; Fairfax, 261 *n*.
Bucknall, Thomas Skip Dyot, *Orchardist,* 66.
Buildings. *See* Barns; District of Columbia; Houses.

Burning Spring, frontier tract, 129, 131.
Burroughs, *Rev.* Newburgh, letter to, 12; Savage estate, 13, 14.
Burwell, ——, slave cook, 122.
Butler, for Mount Vernon, 150.

Cabinet, importunity of congressmen, 190.
Cadwalader, John, son, 361.
Cadwalader, Thomas, letter to, 361; aideship, 361; line office, 362.
Callender, James Thomson, *History of the United States,* 33*n*.
Calvert, George, favor, 169; Nellie Custis, 246.
Calvert family, information, 290, 292.
Campbell, Arthur, letter to, 428; Washington's command, 428, 429.
Canada, French attitude, 236.
Carey, John, Washington's wartime letters, 50.
Carlton, ——, tobacco shipment, 428.
Carpenter, for Mount Vernon, 444, 446, 450.
Carr, Peter, Langhorne correspondence, letter, 53*n*.
Carriages, sale of old coach, 17, 79, 145, 158, 178, 294, 373.
Carrington, Edward, letters to, 275, 339, 387, 511; French crisis, 275; quartermaster generalship, 331, 340, 356, 357, 380, 387, 402, 434; selection of army officers, 512, 513.
Carroll, Charles [1], of Carrollton, letter to, 382.
Carroll, Charles [2], aideship, 382.
Carter, ——, army appointment, 404.
Carter, Charles, on army appointment, 404.
Carter, Landon, letter to, 484; introductions, 484; on preserving health, 484.
Casa Yrujo. *See* Yrujo.
*Cassius,* case, 234.
Caton, Richard(?), application, 374.
Cattle, gift of calf, 5, 16; improvement, 16, 286.
Cavalry, command, 358, 359, 410, 493; application to train, 369, 370, 375; selection of officers, 424; raising corps, state quotas, 425, 492.
Chaff machine, 470.
Chapin Library, material from, 342*n*.
Charity and subscriptions, poems, 14; Alexandria poor, 137*n*; distant relative, 162; catch-penny affairs, 179; Washington Academy, 293; Alexandria Academy, 317; Philadelphia relief, 435.
Charleston, S. C., French crisis, 273.

Chase, Samuel, information, 290, 292; letter to, 292; application, 374.
Cheese, gift, 369.
Chestnuts, to Thornton, 39*n*.
Chew, Benjamin, Washington's regards, 321.
Christopher, slave(?), cure, 97.
Cincinnati, Society of the, letter to South Carolina, 499; alteration of ribbon, 500; general meeting, 513.
Clackmannan, Scot., agricultural survey, 321.
Clark, Jonathan, as officer, 334.
Clarkson, Matthew, as officer, 333.
Clerk, for Mount Vernon, 148, 150, 172, 176, 178; duties, 165–167, 283.
*Clio,* 122.
Cloth, for slaves, 123, 148, 174, 177, 188, 241; spinning accounts, 152; gift to Washington, 238.
Clothing, military, 479.
Clover, seed, poor quality, 154, 268.
Cobb, David, as officer, 333.
Cobbett, William, Washington and paper, 9.
Colston, Rawleigh, letters to, 343, 501; Mercer land deed, 343, 344; Washington's Kentucky land, 501.
Colvill, Thomas, estate, settlement, English heirs, 33, 34, 75, 76, 184.
Commander in chief, Washington and acceptance, 272, 298*n*, 304–307, 310–314, 318–320, 325–329, 339, 342, 345, 348, 351, 364, 365, 367, 376, 406, 409, 454; uniform, 304; appointment, 326*n*; pay, 329, 329*n*, 374*n*; supplies, 380, 486; reply to addresses, 428–430, 517; attendance at conference of major generals, 505, 514. *See also* Army; Military secretary.
Commerce, France and new treaty, 209. *See also* Consuls; Navigation.
Commissioners of District of Columbia, letters to, 470, 483, 495, 508, 521. *See also* District of Columbia.
Congress, *fifth:* Blount, 8; calm before storm, 105, 138, 144, 164, 164*n*; advance to federal district, 175, 189, 190. *See also* House of Representatives; Senate.
Connecticut, army officers from, 333.
Connecticut, governor of. *See* Wolcott, Oliver [1].
Connecticut Historical Society, material from, 139.
Consuls, Hamburg, 121*n*; French trials, 233.
Continental Congress, publication of Washington's letters, 50.
Contraband, Jay Treaty, 222, 234.

Conway, Moncure D., *Washington and Mount Vernon,* material from, 12*n*, 255*n*.

Cook, Mount Vernon, fugitive, new, 63, 70, 122–124, 148, 149.

Copy press, Washington's, 18, 19, 57.

Corbin, Francis, letters to, 295, 362; information, 295, 362; aideship or line command, 362, 363.

Corbin, Richard, papers, 291, 295.

Corn, prospect, crop, 12, 94; purchase for distillery, 122, 140, 141, 159, 168, 172; price, 123, 159, 173, 303; foreign relations and sale, 239; culture at Mount Vernon, 240; proposed contract to supply Mount Vernon, 240, 301, 302, 473, 481.

Cornell University Library, material from, 121*n*, 452*n*.

Cornwallis, Charles, *earl* of, Law, 115.

Correspondence, and public duties, 4, 48; copy press, 18, 19, 57; forwarding Washington's foreign, 104; stationery, 380.

Coxe, Tench, dismissal, 145.

Cradles, special, 255.

Craik, George Washington, army appointment, 360.

Craik, *Dr.* James, director of hospitals, 331, 356*n*, 385; Washington's Ohio River land, 336; Little, 370; Mount Vernon, 386; attends Washington, 423.

Craik, Samuel, Washington's donation, 137*n*.

Crauford, *Gov.* James, Mount Vernon, 522.

Cresap *v.* McClean, 391*n*.

Cumming, John Noble, as officer, 333.

Currants, order, 175.

Custis, Eleanor (Nellie) Parke, harpsichord, 123; George Calvert, 246; colors for Silver Greys, 503, 503*n*.

Custis, George Washington Parke, Tutor Lewis, 7; educational problem, leaves Princeton, 7, 8, 42; letters to, 20, 117, 187, 245, 258, 288, 363; admonitions on study, routine, 20–22, 117, 118, 187, 188; to Mount Vernon, 21; *Recollections,* material from, 22*n*, 188*n*, 246*n*, 259*n*, 288*n*, 363*n*, 376*n*, 449*n*; St. Johns, courses, quits, 135–137, 169–171, 180, 181, 245, 259, 288, 289, 363, 376, 412, 421, 422, 435, 449; funds expenditures, 259; Lear to tutor, 449.

Czartorski, *Prince,* material from library, 52*n*.

Dance, ——, Fitzhugh's manager, 279.

Dandridge, Bartholomew [2]; Washington's papers, 1; letter to, 85; abroad, 85, 405; questionable accounts, 85; dismantling presidential mansion, 294.

Dandridge, William, Mount Vernon, 86.

Darke, William, as officer, 334.

Davidson, Samuel, position for nephew, 166, 167, 176, 177; letter to, 176.

Davie, William Richardson, army command, 356*n*; selection of officers, 490, 505, 515–517; letter to, 515.

Davis, Augustine, letter to, 35*n*; advertisement, 35*n*.

Dayton, Jonathan, army command, 331, 356*n*, 425, 433; adjutant generalship, 463*n*.

Deakins, Francis, letters to, 126, 179; Washington's Maryland land, 126, 127, 179.

Deakins, William, death, 180.

Debts, missing bond, 5; Lee's, payment question, 28–30, 139, 140; Lear's, further refused, 54, 55, 316; efforts to collect, 146, 147, 167, 168, 473; time notes, 258; Washington's loan to Potomac Company, 276; tobacco notes, 321, 336; Washington's proposed loan, 482, 483, 486. *See also* Finances; Public debt.

Deneale, George, letter to, 249; Savage estate, 250.

Dexter, John Singer, as officer, 333.

Digges Point, Md., as site for fortification, 465.

Dismal Swamp, Washington's sale, complications, payment, exchange, 28, 139, 140, 149, 472, 473, 481, 522.

Distillery, Mount Vernon, operation, management, 55, 177, 269, 270; construction, unsatisfactory progress, accounts, 112, 139, 141, 152, 154; grain purchase, 122, 140, 159, 168, 172, 302; questionable usefulness, 278.

District of Columbia, hotel, Washington's shares, 37, 518; public buildings, progress, need of haste, 37, 124, 189; Washington's lots, 46, 256, 257, 470–472; Maryland loan, 118; federal advance, 175, 189, 190; conduct of proprietors, 189; Washington's houses, construction, 436, 449, 471, 483, 485, 495, 498, 499, 508–510, 521–524; navy yard, 464–467; fortification, 466, 466*n*; water supply, 467, 523; land value, 473; Washington at, 488; private buildings, regulations, 523. *See also* Commissioners.

District of Columbia Letters and Papers, material from, 191*n*, 257*n*, 437*n*, 483*n*, 496*n*, 510*n*, 522*n*.

Dixon, ——, Savage estate, 250.

Dobson, Thomas, American edition of *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11, 17, 27, 146, 178, 188, 373, 411.

Dogs, at Mount Vernon, 114; bite, cure, 187.

Donaldson, Joseph, Algerian negotiations, 204.

Drought, 494.
Dundas, John, Washington's donation, 137*n*.
Dunham, Josiah, letter to, 386; oration, 386.
Dunnington, ——, land rent, 337, 338.
Dwight, Timothy, sermons, 472.
Dykes, James, note, 258.

Eccleston, John, as officer, 334.
Education, problem of young Custis, 7, 8, 20–22, 42, 117, 118, 135–137, 169–171, 180, 181, 187, 188, 245, 259, 288, 289, 363, 376, 412, 421, 422, 435, 449; academy or tutor, 172; gift stock to academy, 293; subscription to Alexandria Academy, 317.
Eggleston, Joseph, as officer, 334.
Ehler, John Christian, leaves, 64.
Election, federal (1798), 474, 495, 519*n*.
Elliot, ——, land claim, 117.
Ellwood, John, *jr.*, shipmaster, Potomac run, 174.
Embargo, French, on American ships, 494.
*Encyclopædia Britannica,* American edition, Washington's subscription, 11, 17, 27, 146, 178, 188, 373, 411.
Engineers, need of corps, 355; selection of officers, 488.
Engravings, Savage's Washington, 188, 293; for Washington, 320; Trumbull's prints, 367.
Entail, docking, in Virginia, 44, 57, 64.
Entertainments, table ornaments, disposal, 9, 10, 17, 146, 188, 294, 373.
Erosion, at Mount Vernon, 240.
Estates, Savage, 13, 14, 250; Colvill, 33, 34, 75, 76, 184; Mercer, 343, 344.
Europe, perturbed state, 48.
Evans, Luther H., acknowledgment to, 484*n*.
Evans, Oliver, letters to, 242, 249, 289, 352; miller for Mount Vernon, 242, 243, 249, 289, 352.
Evelett, ——, shipmaster, 426.

Fairfax, Bryan, *baron,* Savage estate, 13, 14, 250; to England, introductions, bears letters, 260, 261, 266; letter to, 266.
Fairfax, Ferdinando, Belvoir, 261; letter to, 316; work dedicated to Washington, 316.
Fairfax, Sarah (Cary), letter to, 262; return, 264; Mrs. Washington's letter, 265.

Farril, Roger, overseership, 450.

Fast Day, addresses, 280, 281, 290.

Fauchet, Jean Antoine Joseph, X Y Z mission, 108; defense, 126, 145, 156; *Medusa-Africa* affair, 234.

Fayette County, Pa., Washington's land, payment, 23–25.

Federal district. *See* District of Columbia.

*Federal Gazette and Baltimore Advertiser* advertisements, 7*n*, 35*n*.

Fendall, *Dr.* B., letter to, 182; Mrs. Washington's teeth, 182.

Fenno, John, Hamilton's pamphlet, 33*n*.

Fenwick, James, conduct as consul, 232.

Fevot, Ferdinand, letter to, 247; complaints, 248; Mount Vernon, 248*n*.

Field, ——, Washington's Kentucky land, 161, 338.

Field officers, appointment, 335, 363.

Finances, contingent fees, 14; Washington's straitened condition, 37, 54, 139, 153, 171, 257, 280, 300; hotel shares, 37, 518. *See also* Accounts; Bank; Bill of credit; Debts; Land; Prices; Salaries; Taxes; Wages.

Fincastle County, W. Va. (Va.), Washington's land, 130.

Finnie, William, slave cook, 122.

Fish, Nicholas, as officer, 333.

Fish, salt, for Mount Vernon, 47.

Fisheries, accounts, 152.

Fitzgerald, John, letters to, 75, 167; Alexandria house rent, 75, 77; draft, 137; Washington's affairs, 167, 168; bears letter, 258; Pearcy, 379.

Fitzhugh, William, letters to, 277, 296, 390; farm manager, 277; information for Belknap, 296; horse for Washington, 390.

Florida, and Franco-American crisis, 202, 272.

Flour, foreign relations and sale, price, 55, 240. *See also* next title.

Flour mill, distillery at, 141; accounts, 152; purchase of staves, 173; miller, sought, reengaged, 242–245, 249, 289, 352; special arrangement, 269, 270.

Folwell, Richard, Democratic printer, 298*n*.

Forbes, *Mrs.* ——, Mount Vernon housekeeper, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63, 71, 76, 77, 109.

Foreign relations, policy, Monroe and Washington, 215, 219, 220. *See also* Consuls; Neutral trade; Neutrality; State, secretary of; nations by name.

Fort Necessity, expedition land grants, Washington's labor, 251, 252.

Fort Warburton, Md., 466*n*.

Fort Washington, Md., 466*n*.

Foster & May, accounts, 254, 257, 258; letter to, 257.

Fourth of July, oration, 386.

France. *See* "French" titles.

Francis, John, letter to, 449; Washington's houses in the District, 449, 524.

Frank, Washington's, as ex-president, 161.

Franklin stoves, for Mount Vernon, 15, 16, 32, 47.

Frederick County, W. Va. (Va.), recruiting, 379.

Fredericksburg, Va., French crisis, 273.

Free ships, free goods, Jay Treaty, 236.

French alliance, demands and neutrality, 195, 196, 199, 223–226, 228, 232; consultation, 217.

French crisis, preparatory acts, 298*n*; prospect of invasion, field, 313, 350, 352, 384, 497; politics, French partisans, 384, 389, 420, 451, 474, 475, 498 516; McHenry's unfitness as secretary of war, results, Washington's criticism, 394, 402–404, 410, 441; French embargo on American ships, 494; and visit by Lafayette, 497; Pickering's correspondence with state executives, 520. *See also* Army; Commander in chief; General officers; Officers; X Y Z.

French Directory, French public opinion, 18; attitude of government, and American politics, 18, 19, 90, 93, 94, 176, 183; war not expected, 19; spoliations, Monroe, 67, 197, 18, 200, 201, 205, 211, 212, 217, 218, 221, 224, 228, 229, 231, 232, 235, 236, 260; alteration, 89, 94; Monroe as minister, 138, 145, 183, 184, 194–237; suspected treasonable correspondence with, 191; reaction to Jay Treaty, 197, 199, 200, 202–214, 218–222, 226, 227, 229–231, 233, 234; American relations with Spain and Barbary, 202, 221, 229; Monroe's recall, 214–216, 237; Pinckney, 237. *See also* French crisis; X Y Z.

French language, study, 421.

French Revolution, Washington-Pretender libel, 156; Morris as minister, 201, 219, 227; American-Algerian negotiations, 203, 204; commercial treaty, 209; Parrish incident, 210; consular courts, 233. *See also* French Directory.

Frestal, Felix, return, fears letter, 37, 39; young Lafayette, 41; letter to, 91; Washington on relations, 92.

Frignet, ———, and army office, 341.

Frontier lands, Washington's, proposed division, 69, 71; proposed exchange, 59–61, 71–74, 439–441; Anderson's plan for rental and settlement, 77–79; Welch affair, 82, 83, 99–104, 133–135, 487; taxes,

110, 128–130, 149, 157; described, 130–132; disposal, 133, 135, 317, 336, 337, 391–393, 414, 415, 439. *See also* Kentucky; Miami.

Frontier posts, France and American recovery, 229.

Fugitive slaves, prevention and danger, 2; Mount Vernon cook, 70, 123, 124, 146, 148.

Gallatin, Albert, Addison's pamphlet on speech, 280.

*Ganges,* 56.

Gardener, new, from Scotland, 26, 34, 35, 64, 365.

Garrett, ——, overseership, 450, 451.

Gassaway, John, letter to, 419; aideship, 419.

Gauvain, ——, Monroe, 231.

Geneaology, Washington's family, 173, 239, 482.

General officers, for provisional army, essential character, 308, 310, 312*n*, 314, 318, 319; appointment, Washington's list and criticism, 330, 331, 335, 356, 356*n*, 358, 375, 433, 442; rank of major generals, 323–325, 331, 332, 345–347, 347*n*, 349*n*, 356*n*, 393, 396–401, 426, 426*n*, 431, 432, 441*n*, 442, 447–449, 452–464, 462*n*, 463*n*, 475–477, 479, 496, 500, 502–504, 506–508, 514, 519, 520; conference of major generals, 504, 505, 514. *See also* Commander in chief.

Georgia, French crisis, 273; army officers from, 424, 469, 479, 490, 492, 504.

Georgia, governor of. *See* Jackson, James.

Gerry, Elbridge. *See* X Y Z mission.

Gibbs, Caleb, as officer, 333.

Gifts, to Washington, 5, 8, 16, 20, 45, 47, 66, 84, 90, 181, 320, 322, 367, 413, 452, 470.

Gilchrist, Adam, letter to, 499*n*.

Giles, Aquila, as officer, 334.

Gilpin, George, letter to, 75; Alexandria house rent, 75, 77; Washington's affairs, 174.

Gird, Henry, *sr.,* Washington's frontier land, 414, 415.

Gird, Henry, *jr.,* letter to, 414.

Goodhue, Benjamin, letter to, 47; fish, 47.

Goodwin, Benjamin(?), claim, 143.

Gordon, *Rev.* William, letter to, 48; Washington's papers, 50.

Gough, Henry (Harry) Dorsey, letters to, 6, 16; sheep, 6, 17; bull calf for Mount Vernon, 16.

Graham, Edward, letter to, 251; Fort Necessity land grant, 251, 252.

Graham, George, Washington's Miami land, 377.

Grain, short crop, 67. *See also* grains by name.
Grass, seed, 62; prospects, 282.
Gray, Vincent, office, 244.
Great Britain, agricultural reports, 20. *See also* Jay Treaty.
Great Kanawha River, Washington's land, disposal, taxes, description, 59–61, 69, 71–74, 77–79, 100–104, 110, 128–131, 133–135, 439.
Green River, navigability, 121.
Greenbrier County, W. Va. (Va.), Washington's land, 131.
Greene, Catherine (Littlefield), Mrs. Miller, 189.
Greene County, Tenn., reply to address on French crisis, 429.
Grice, Cornelia (Johns), acknowledgment to, 137*n*.
Grice, W. S., acknowledgment to, 137*n*.
Grimké, John Faucheraud, letter to, 499*n*.
Griswold, Roger, Lyon affair, 144*n*, 164*n*, 175.
Grosvenor, Thomas, as officer, 333.
Guérard de Nancrede, Paul Joseph. *See* Nancrede.

Hall, Josias Carvel, as officer, 334.
Hambly, William, letter to, 369; gift, 369, 369*n*.
Hamburg, American consul, 121*n*.
Hamilton, Alexander, letters to, 15, 39, 271, 329, 393, 452, 500; Washington's gift of wine cooler, 15; Reynold's Pamphlet, 33, 33*n*; young Lafayette, 39; reply to Monroe, 138, 156; army command, appointment, rank question, 273*n*, 323–325, 330–332, 345, 348*n*, 349*n*, 356*n*, 375, 393, 396–401, 426, 426*n*, 431, 432, 441*n*, 442, 447, 448*n*, 452–464, 475–477, 479, 496, 500, 502–504, 506–508, 514, 519, 520; Washington and French crisis, letter, 271, 271*n*; on McHenry, 394; war preparations, 395, 403, 411, 412; call to service, 503*n*; conference of major generals, 504, 505, 514.
Hamilton, John C., and Washington papers, 271*n*, 395*n*.
Hamilton Papers, material from, 15*n*, 40*n*, 272*n*, 332*n*, 395*n*, 452*n*, 500*n*.
Hams, gift to England, 369, 369*n*.
Hand, ——, shipmaster, Potomac Run, 18.
Hand, Edward, army command, 331, 356*n*, 433.
Harper, Robert Goodloe, aideship, 395.
Harpers Ferry, arsenal site, 54, 253, 318.
Harpsichord, strings, 123, 145.
Harrison, Carter Barrett, information for Belknap, 291.

Harrison, James, letter to, 25; Alexandria rent, 25.
Harrison County, W. Va. (Va.), Washington's land, 158.
Hartshorne, William, Potomac Company, 276.
Harvard College, Washington on, 136.
Harvard College Library, material from, 237.
Hay, prospects, 12. *See also* Grass.
Haynie, Sally Ball, letter to, 162; admonition, 162.
Hayward, Martha (Washington), 482.
Hayward, Samuel, wife, 482*n*.
Health, Washington's jocular letter, 109*n*; cure of dog bite, 187; Washington's weight, 390; his illness, 419, 420, 435, 444, 446, 505; old age, 484. *See also* Yellow fever.
Heard, *Sir* Isaac, Washington family, 173.
Hedges, neglected, 286.
Henry, *Gov.* John, letters to, 238, 484*n*; lumber, 238; Mount Vernon, 238; Carter, 484, 484*n*.
Herbert, William, letters to, 75, 258, 482, 486; Alexandria house rent, 75, 77; bears letter, 119; Washington's donation, 137*n*; Washington's accounts, 258; Washington's loan, 482, 483, 486; Belknap's work, 485.
Hercules, fugitive slave cook, 70, 123, 148.
Hessian fly, as pest, 12, 282.
Heth, William, selection of army officers, 312; as officer, 334; letters to, 351, 388; army appointment, aideship, 351, 352*n*, 388, 395, 433.
Heusler, Anthony, letter to, 34; hiring as gardener, 26, 34, 35.
Hickman, William, letter to, 341; Frignet, 341.
Hickory nuts, order, 175.
Hill, Henry, letter to, 342.
*Historical Magazine,* material from, 122*n*.
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, material from, 242, 280, 312*n*, 353*n*, 380, 412, 472.
Hite, Abraham, *jr.*, Kentucky land, 160.
Hite, Isaac, Kentucky land, 160, 192, 193.
Hite, Joseph, Kentucky land, 160.
Hodgdon, Samuel, letter to, 486; paper for commander in chief, 486.
Hollingsworth, Henry, letter to, 238; cloth, gift, 238.
Honors, book dedications, declined, 155, 316, 317, 413, 488.
Hoops, Adam, army appointment, 418.

Hope Park, Stuart estate, 170, 265.
Hopkinson, Joseph, letter to, 274; pamphlet and song, 274.
Horry, Charles Pinckney, letter to, 255; reply to Paine, 255, 256; Mount Vernon, 256.
Horses, advertisement of sale, 35*n*; stud, payment, 151; riding, needed, 390.
Horticulture, plants from and to Antigua, 426, 427. *See also* Gardener.
Hotel, federal district, shares, 37, 518.
House of Representatives, Lyon affair, 144*n*, 164*n*, 175. *See also* Congress.
Housekeeper, for Mount Vernon, 7*n*, 27, 33, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63, 71, 76, 77, 109, 150.
Houses, Alexandria rent trouble, 75, 299; construction of Washington's, in federal district, 436, 449, 471, 483, 485, 495, 498, 499, 508–510, 521–524; regulations in district, 523.
Howard, John Eager, army command, 331.
Humphreys, David, Algerian negotiations, 203.
Huntington, Ebenezer, as officer, 333; army command, 356*n*.
Huntington Library, material from, 70, 281, 333, 352*n*.
Hydrophobia, cure, 97.
Hynes, Andrew, Kentucky land, 160.

Illuminati, in America, 453, 518, 519.
Implements, threshing machine, 37–39, 252; need of blacksmith, 148, 178; chaff machine, 470.
Independence, necessity of self-sufficiency, 239.
Inspector general, appointment, 309, 325, 356*n*.
International law. *See* Neutral trade; Neutrality.
Izard, Alice (Delancey), letter to, 353.
Izard, George, army appointment, complaint, 354, 415–417; training in France, 362; aideship, 417.
Izard, Ralph, Washington, 90; illness, 353.

Jackson, Henry, as officer, 333.
Jackson, *Gov.* James, French crisis, 274.
Jackson, William, as officer, 334.
James Navigation Company, Washington's gift stock, 293.
Jameson, Andrew, payment, 151.

Jay Treaty, commissions, 20; Jay's appointment, Monroe and Washington on, 194; instructions, scope of negotiations, 196, 202, 203; French reaction, Monroe's conduct, 197, 199, 200, 203–214, 218–222, 226, 227, 229–231, 233, 234; character of opposition, 205, 207; Washington's attitude, 207, 216; neutral rights, contraband, free ships, free goods, 208, 216, 222, 234, 236; Adet, 221, 222; commercial provisions, 226.

Jefferson, Thomas, Washington's wartime letters, 51; purported intrigue, Langhorne affair, 52*n*, 53*n*, 81, 183, 408, 420 political conduct, 182; French negotiations, 206.

Jenifer, Daniel of St. Thomas [2], letter to, 337; Washington's Maryland land, 337, 338.

Johnson, George, land, 43.

Johnston, Francis, as officer, 334.

Johnston, Peter, Pickering's letter, 498.

Jones, John, Washington's Maryland land, 180, 127.

Jones, Joseph (Joshua?), land, 46.

Jones, William, letter to, 435.

Judiciary, appointments, 519*n*.

Keith, James, Colvill estate, 33, 75, 76; letters to, 102, 186; frontier lands, agreement, 102–104; Potomac Company, 186.

Kentucky, Washington's land, 59, 119–121, 159–161, 192, 193, 250, 338, 339, 350, 502, 510, 511; French crisis, 289; officers from, 479, 490, 492; quota of troops, 492.

Kerr, Joseph, Washington's Miami land, 378*n*.

Kidder, *Mrs.* S. T., *jr.*, acknowledgment to, 241*n*.

King, ——, 435.

King, Rufus, letters to, 98, 261*n*; Lafayette, 98, 99; Fairfax, 261*n*; Washington's affairs, 321.

Kinross, Scot., agricultural survey, 321.

Kirk, Grafton, land affairs, 36, 43, 44.

Kirk, James, account, 5.

Kiska Toms, hickory nuts, 175.

Kitt, Frederick, Washington's fugitive slave, 123, 124, 148; letters to, 123, 148; position, 149.

Knox, Henry, major generalship, rank question, declines, letter, 331, 345–347, 347*n*–349*n*, 356*n*, 393, 396–401, 426, 426*n*, 431, 432, 441*n*, 442, 447, 448, 448*n*, 452–464, 462*n*, 463*n*, 475–477, 479, 496, 500, 502–504, 506–508; letters to, 345, 396, 506, 513; war preparations, 411, 412; call to service, 503*n*; aideship, 508.

Knox, *Rev.* Samuel, letter to, 487; dedication declined, 488.

Kosciuszko, Thaddeus, letters to, 22, 51; return, Washington's greeting, 22; claim, 51.

Labor, uncertainty, 49; conditions of agricultural, 107; necessity of systematic, 112, 113. *See also* Slaves.

La Colombe, Louis Saint Ange Morel, *chevalier* de, letter to, 86; Lafayette, 86.

Lafayette, George Washington L. G. Motier, return to Europe, risk, 39–41, 86, 88, 90–92, 95–99, 105, 122; funds, 40*n*; letter to, 95.

Lafayette, Marie Joseph P. Y. R. G. du Motier, *marquis* de, release, son's return, possible American trip, 39–41, 86, 88, 91, 95–99, 121, 122; letters to, 40, 97; proposed visit deprecated, 497.

Land, Pennsylvania, disposal, payment, 23–25, 37, 68, 107, 132, 137, 138, 164, 280, 371, 372, 475, 476, 480; Alexandria lots, 25, 75, 77, 299, 317, 336, 337, 391, 392, 439; adverse claim, 35, 43–45, 57; docking entail, 44, 57, 64; federal district lots, 46, 256, 257, 436, 470–472; Suffolk, 46, 47; Kentucky, 59, 119–121, 192, 193, 250, 338, 339, 350, 351, 502, 510, 511; proposed exchange of frontier for Maryland, 59–61, 71–74, 439–441; upper Potomac, protection, 62, 163; foreign offers, 65; reduction in price, 67; frontier, plans for disposal, taxes, 77–79, 82, 83, 99–104, 110, 128–135, 149, 157, 317, 336, 337, 391–393, 414, 415, 439, 487; Maryland, rent, 126, 127, 179, 180, 299, 336, 337, 407; agency, tenants, rents, 140, 141, 180, 282; Miami River, adverse claim, described, 142–144, 377, 378*n*, 440; Fort Necessity grants, 251, 252; Dismal Swamp, payment, 472, 473, 481, 522; value in federal district, 473. *See also* Agriculture; Houses; Mount Vernon; Public lands.

Langhorne, John, letter to, 52; affair, 52, 53, 81, 183, 408, 420.

Law, Elizabeth Parke (Custis), supposed gift, 410, 478.

Law, Thomas, letters to, 37, 114, 256, 518; hotel, 37, 518; movements, 96; Mount Vernon, 96, 246, 522; dog, 114; Cornwallis, 115; favor, 238; Washington's federal district lots, 256, 257; house in district, 483; bears letter, 499.

Lawyers, contingent fee, 14.

Lear, Tobias, Washington's papers, 1; letters to, 30, 54, 69, 299, 300, 316, 380; lease of River Farm, 30, 31; arsenal site, 54; loan refused, 54, 55; Liston to Mount Vernon, 69; Potomac Company, 125, 186, 380; bears letter, 126; young Custis, tutor, 171, 435, 449; Washington's accounts, rebuked, 180, 299–301, 316, 317; letters written by, 335*n*, 522*n*; military secretary, 361, 362, 381, 434; school for stepchildren, 381; illness, 505.

Lee, Charles, recall of Monroe, 1, 2; letter to, 2; movements, 23; Washington's legal affairs, 250.

Lee, Edmond, opening letter, 239, 241; letter to, 241.

Lee, Frederick, Washington's affairs, 322.

Lee, Henry, French news, 19; letters to, 28, 139, 472; Dismal Swamp, payment, 28–30, 139, 140, 472, 473, 481, 522; Kentucky land to Washington, 149, 185, 250; movements, 241; army command, 331, 348*n*, 356*n*; Whiskey Insurrection command, 399; Mount Vernon, consultation, 473, 481.

Lee, Richard Bland, letter to, 521; army appointment, 521.

L'Enfant, Pierre Charles, Fort Washington, 466*n*.

Letters. *See* Correspondence.

Lewis, *Gen.* Andrew, frontier land, 129, 131.

Lewis, Fielding [1], Suffolk land, 46, 47.

Lewis, George, letter to, 70; slave cook for Mount Vernon, 70; uncle's Kentucky land, 121.

Lewis, Howell, bears letter, 140, 141.

Lewis, John, Suffolk land, 46, 47.

Lewis, Lawrence, letter to, 2; fugitive slave, 2; Mount Vernon as home service, 2; at cousin's wedding, 92; bears letter, 256; army appointment, 405.

Lewis, Robert, of Philadelphia, miller, 242.

Lewis, Robert, nephew, letters to, 62, 140, 162, 282; uncle's land affairs, agency, 62, 140, 141, 162–164, 282; crops, 282.

Lewis, *Rev.* Zechariah, letters to, 7, 472; sermons, 7; Custis, 7; route to Natural Bridge, 472.

Liberty Hall. *See* Washington Academy.

Library of Congress, Hamilton Papers, 15*n*; William Thornton Papers, 39*n*; Washington Photostats, 47*n*; McHenry Photostats, 54*n*; Toner Transcripts, 266*n*.

Linen. *See* Osnaburgs.

Liston, Robert, Mount Vernon, 69.

Liston, *Mrs.* Robert, Mrs. Washington's letter, 169*n*.

Little, Charles, army appointment, 370.

Lloyd, James, calf from Washington, 5; letters to, 246, 288, 298, 303; French crisis, 246, 288, 299; Washington's army command, 326*n*; brother, 358.

Logan, George, French affairs, 225, 407.

Long Island Historical Society, *Memoirs,* material from, 12*n*, 255*n*.
Louisiana, French designs, 236, 272.
Lumber, cutting up-country trees, walnut, 163; order, 237, 238, 251, 294.
Luzac, John, letter to, 84; work, gift, 84, 90; compliments, 84.
Lynn, *Rev.* William, letter to, 281.
Lyon, Matthew, affair in House, 144*n*, 164*n*, 175.
Lyons, Peter, Rawlins, 166.

McCarty, Daniel, letters to, 59, 71, 439; land exchange, 59–61, 71–74, 439–441.
McClean, Archibald, letters to, 317, 336, 392; exchange of land, 317, 336, 337, 391–393, 439.
McCormick-Goodhart, Leander, acknowledgment to, 391*n*, 393*n*.
McCrea, *Mrs.* James W. T., acknowledgment to, 108*n*.
MacDonald, Thomas, letter to, 20; agricultural reports, 20; Jay Treaty commission, 20; Mount Vernon, 20*n*.
McDowell, John, young Custis, 169, 180, 181, 187, 289, 376, 421, 422, 449; letters to, 180, 289, 376, 421, 449; Carter, 484.
MacHarg, Anthony, letter to, 369; training of cavalry, 369, 370, 375.
McHenry, James, secretary of war, letters to, 8, 53, 117, 144, 158, 179, 191, 253, 298, 303, 304, 318, 326*n*, 349*n*, 356, 366, 368, 370, 373, 375, 378, 379, 380, 385, 402, 404, 410, 411, 418, 423, 426*n*, 441, 447, 448*n*, 463, 474, 476, 477, 488, 502, 503, 514, 520; Bordley, 8; presidential table ornaments, 9; wine cooler, 9; Cobbett, 9; son's accident, 54; arsenal site, 54, 253, 318; land claim, 117; Washington's Miami land, 144; on affairs in House, letter, 144*n*; on Monroe's vindication, letter, 145*n*; on X Y Z mission, letters, 145*n*, 298*n*; Washington's coach, 158; illness, 158, 404*n*, 412; edition of congressional journals, letter, 179, 297, 297*n*; Mount Vernon, conference on provisional army, 279*n*, 325, 326*n*, 329, 340, 347, 396, 502; Washington and army command, letter, 298*n*, 304–312, 318–320, 325–327; appointment of army officers, letter, 334*n*, 356, 356*n*, 479, 488–491, 504, 512, 515; queries on officers, 335; applicants, 358, 360, 366, 370, 372, 375, 378, 379, 385, 404, 405, 410, 418; colors for Alexandria company, 368, 380, 418, 418*n*, 503, 503*n*; military secretary, letter, 374, 375, 375*n*; staff appointments, 375, 380; unfitness for position, Washington's criticism, 394, 402–404, 441–443; war preparations, recruiting, supplies, 410–412, 477–479, 511*n*; rank of major generals, letters, 426*n*, 441*n*, 447–449, 448*n*, 454, 455, 476, 477, 502–504, 503*n*; conference of major generals, 514.
McHenry Photostats, material from, 54*n*, 426*n*.

McLean, Archibald, letter to, 5; missing bond, 5.
Macpherson, William, as officer, 334.
Madigan, Thomas F., acknowledgment to, 435*n*.
Madison, *Bishop* James, information for Belknap, 291.
Magee, ——, bond, 5.
Magnien, Bernard, Grenadier Company, address, 273, 275.
Major generals. *See* General officers.
Manager, at Mount Vernon, new arrangement, 269, 270, 283–287.
Manufacture, necessity to real independence, 239.
Maps and plans, Washington's houses in federal district, 438; Mount Vernon wall, 524, 525.
Marietta College, material from, 144*n*.
Marshall, James, letter to, 348; aideship, 348.
Marshall, John, Washington's legal affairs, 45, 344; letters to, 92, 341; return, 299, 303, 341; Mount Vernon, 420; Alexandria dinner, 420*n*; selection of army officers, 512. *See also* X Y Z mission.
Marshall, Thomas [1], letter to, 192; Washington's Kentucky land, 192, 193, 338, 350, 502, 510.
Marshall, Thomas [2], Washington's Kentucky land, 501, 510, 511; letter to, 510.
Marsteller, Philip, Washington's Alexandria house, 75, 77; letter to, 77; army appointment, 360.
Martin, Alexander, letter to, 168; politics, 168; Mount Vernon, 169.
Martin, Thomas C., letters to, 37, 261, 296; threshing machine, 37–39, 261, 262, 296, 297.
Martínez, Carlos. *See* Yrujo.
Maryland, Potomac Company affairs, 115–117, 125; federal district loan, 118; Washington's land, rent, 126, 127, 179, 180, 299, 336, 337, 407; army officers from, politics, 334, 385, 410; federal election, 495.
Maryland, governor of. *See* Henry, John.
Mason, John, letter to, 115; Potomac Company, 115–117.
Mason, Thomson, Savage estate, 250.
Masonry, and Illuminati, 453, 518, 519; Washington and English lodges, 453.
Massachusetts, army officers from, 333.
Massachusetts Historical Society, material from, 347*n*.
Massey, Joseph, Washington's Miami land, 141, 144, 377.
Meade, Richard Kidder, recruiting, 379.
Meals, promptness, 118.
Meat, poor quality at Mount Vernon, 286.

Medical department, for provisional army, staff, 310, 315, 320, 331, 356*n*, 385.

*Medusa,* French warship, *Africa* affair, 234.

Mentges, Francis, as officer, 334.

Mercer, Charles Fenton, army appointment, 366, 367; letter to, 366.

Mercer, George, estate, 343, 344.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, material from, 71*n*.

Miami River, Washington's land, disposal, 133, 440; right, described, 142–144, 377, 378*n*.

Military secretary and aides, applicants for aideship, 348, 349, 351, 356, 358, 361, 362, 372, 374, 382–384, 387, 395, 401, 417, 419, 434; need of secretary, appointment, Lear, 373, 374, 381, 434; qualifications for aides, 374, 387.

Military stores, war preparations, 425, 479; or recrliting, 478. *See also* Arms.

Militia, reply to address on French crisis, 517.

Miller, Catherine (Littlefield | Greene), Washington portrait for, 189, 295.

Miller. *See* Flour mill.

Millers Run, Pa., Washington's land, 372.

Minot, George Richards, letters to, 181; work on Massachusetts, gift, 181, 182.

Moffat, ——, young Custis, 170.

Money. *See* Silver.

Monroe, James, recall, 1, 2, 203*n*, 214–216, 222, 223; defense, Washington's marginal comments, 8, 8*n*, 18, 23, 126, 138, 145, 145*n*, 155, 156, 183, 184, 193–237; Hamilton's reply, 138, 156; appointment to mission, 194, 195; instructions, alliance, 195, 196; reception, 196, 197, 227, 228; French spoliations, 197, 198, 200, 201, 211, 212, 217, 218, 221, 228, 229, 231, 235; Jay's mission and treaty, 196, 197, 199, 200, 202–214, 218–222, 226, 227, 229–231, 233, 234; on Morris as minister, Washington's comment, 197, 201, 219, 227; address to Convention, censure, 200, 201; Algerian negotiations, 203, 204; Parish, 210; on administration's foreign policy, 215; conduct as minister, 229; Fenwick, 232.

Moore, Thomas Lloyd, as officer, 334.

Morgan, Daniel, recruiting, 379.

Morris, Gouverneur, publicity of private correspondence, 126, 157; as minister, Monroe and Washington on, 197, 201, 219, 227.

Morris, Robert, letter to, 417; Mount Vernon, 417; Hoops, 418.

Mount Vernon, letters from, 1–525; Lawrence Washington, service, 2; housekeeper, 7*n*, 27, 33, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63, 71, 76, 77, 109, 150; repairs, 4, 49, 67, 85, 87, 263; pictures and frames, 15, 32, 295; stoves, 15, 16, 32, 47; grain, 12, 30, 94, 282; visitors, 22, 96, 246, 248*n*, 297, 325, 329*n*, 369*n*, 386, 408, 409, 420*n*, 426*n*, 469, 481, 522; proposed lease of farms, 30, 31, 80, 81, 192; salt fish, 47; cook, 63, 70, 122, 123, 149; Parkinson and lease, 106, 107; instructions, 110–114; accounts, observations, 110, 111, 151–155, 254, 257; necessity of systematic labor, 112, 113; consolidation of farms, 114; dogs, 114; clerk, 148, 150, 165–167, 172, 176, 178, 283; self-sustaining, 153; provisions, 174, 175, 188; soil and erosion, 240; contract to supply with corn, 240, 301, 302, 473, 481; rights of proprietor and manager, 267–270, 284; chief purposes, 268; proposed new managerial arrangement, 269, 270, 283–287; rotation, 285; river wall at mansion, 524, 525. *See also* Animals; Barns; Distillery; Flour mill; Horticulture; Implements; Overseers; Slaves.

Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, material from, 42*n*, 115*n*, 450*n*.

Muir, *Rev.* James, Washington's donation, 137*n*.

Murarius, Lewis, letter to, 401; aideship, 401.

Murray, Fontaine, overseer, 450.

Murray, George, slave cook, 70.

Murray, Judith (Sargent | Stevens), letters to, 281, 353; works, 281; compliments, 353.

Murray, William Vans, letters to, 87, 405; information, 87; correspondence, 405.

Muse, George, frontier land, 131.

Nancrede, Paul Joseph Guérard de, works for Washington, dedication, 155, 156.

Nanjemoy, Md., tobacco warehouse, 428.

National Library of Scotland, material from, 59*n*.

Natural Bridge, Va., route to, 472.

Navigation. *See* Embargo; Neutral trade.

Navy, American, location of navy yard, federal district, 464–467; proposed officer, 486.

Navy, secretary of the. *See* Stoddert, Benjamin.

Nelson, Thomas, letter to, 384; aideship, 384.

Netherlands, conditions, 93.

Neutral trade, effect of spoliations on land prices, 67; Monroe and French spoliations, 189, 197, 198, 200, 201, 211, 212, 217, 218, 221, 224, 228, 229, 231, 232, 235, 236, 260; British spoliations and French relations, 204; Jay Treaty, 207, 208, 216, 222, 234.

Neutrality, necessity of policy, 48; and French alliance, 195, 196, 199, 223–226, 228, 232; privateers and prizes, 233; blockade by belligerent, 234.

New Jersey, army officers from, 333; federal election, 519*n*.

*New Jersey,* capture, 189.

New Post, Spotswood's estate, 444.

New York, army officers from, 333.

New York City, yellow fever, 470.

New York Public Library, material from, 5–9, 11, 14, 17, 25, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 35*n*, 36, 39, 43, 47, 48, 51, 52, 55–58, 61, 66, 69, 74, 75, 77, 79, 99, 171, 181, 187, 279, 298, 315*n*, 335, 335*n*, 341, 343, 350, 390, 441.

Newenham, *Sir* Edward, letter to, 3; correspondence, 3, 4.

Nicholas, John, Langhorne affair, letter, 52*n*, 53*n*, 81, 82, 408, 420; letters to, 81, 182; politics, 182–185; Mount Vernon, 184.

Nicholas, Robert Carter, and Washington, 82.

Niemcewicz, Julian Ursyn, letter to, 297; Mount Vernon, 297.

Norfolk, Va., French crisis, 273, 275.

North, William, as officer, 333; army appointment, adjutant generalship, 403, 426*n*, 433, 442, 463*n*, 501.

North Carolina, French crisis, 273; army officers from, 424, 469, 479, 490, 492, 505, 515–517; quota of troops, 492.

Northwest Territory, Washington's land, 133, 142–144, 377, 378*n*, 440.

Nuts, chestnuts, 39*n*.

Oats, prospects, 282.

*Observations on Certain Documents,* 33*n*.

O'Donnell, John, letter to, 26; gardener, 26.

Officers, army, selection, 244, 335, 354, 355, 359, 363, 415–417, 423, 424, 469, 479, 489–491, 503–505, 512, 513, 515–517, 521; available Revolutionary, 333, 334, 347, 359, 446, 451; applicants, 360, 366, 367, 369, 370, 372–374, 378, 379, 404, 405, 418; cavalry, 424, 425; artillery and engineers, 488. *See also* General officers; Staff.

O'Flynn, Patrick, letter to, 244; miller, 244.

Ogden, Aaron, as officer, 333.

Ogle, Benjamin, son-in-law, 358.
*Ohio Archæological and Historical Quarterly*, 378*n*.
Ohio River, Washington's land, disposal, taxes, 69, 128, 133, 317, 336, 337, 391–393, 414, 415, 439; described, 131, 132.
Olney, Jeremiah, as officer, 333.
Osnaburgs, purchase, 123, 148, 174, 177, 188, 241.
Overseers, need, hiring, wages, 11, 444–446, 450–452.

Paine, Thomas, Horry's reply, 255, 256.
Paper, for commander in chief, 486.
Papers, Washington's, retaining official, 1, 12; clerk, 148, 150, 165–167, 172, 176, 178; arranging, 113, 373, 381.
Parish, John, favor, 66; as consul, and Monroe, 210.
Parker, John, letter to, 178; edition of congressional journals, 178, 179, 298.
Parker, Thomas, army appointment, 378, 379.
Parkinson, Richard, lease of Mount Vernon farms, 80, 106, 107; letters to, 80, 106; agricultural work, 80, 81.
Parks, ——, express, 447.
Patton, James, note, 258.
Pay, veteran's rights, 58; Washington's as commander in chief, 329, 329*n*, 374*n*.
Paymaster general, provisional army, 388.
Peace, Washington's devotion, 413.
Pearce, Nancy, ill health, 12.
Pearce, William, letters to, 11, 254; overseer, 11; ill health, 12; left-over accounts, 254, 257, 258; cradling, 255.
Pearcy, Henry, army appointment, 379; service, 379*n*.
Pearson, George, letter to, 33; Colvill estate, 33.
Pearson, Simon, land, sale to Washington, 35, 36, 43–45.
Pearson, Thomas, land claim, 36, 43–45.
Peas, pindars, order, 175.
Peck, William, as officer, 333.
Pendleton, Edmund, Rawline, 166.
Pennsylvania, Washington's land, disposal, payment, 23–25, 37, 68, 107, 132, 137, 138, 164, 280, 371, 372, 475, 476, 480; army officers from, 334; federal election, 519*n*.
Peter, Martha Parke (Custis), daughter, 92; Mount Vernon, 246.

Peter, Thomas, letters to, 166, 265, 321, 336, 407, 427; clerk for Washington, 166, 177; Mount Vernon, 246; Washington to visit, 265; tobacco notes, 321, 336, 407, 408, 427; bears letter, 498.

Peters, Andrew, as officer, 333.

Peyton, Valentine, army appointment, 360.

Philadelphia. *See* Yellow fever.

Philadelphia City Hospital, letter to manager, 435.

Philadelphia Marine Hospital, letter to manager, 435.

*Philanthropist,* 426.

Philips, Francis, gift, 320.

Philips, Henry, letter to, 320; prints for Washington, letter, 320, 321*n*.

Pickering, Timothy, secretary of state, letters to, 1, 18, 23, 56, 66, 104, 126, 155, 248, 323, 385, 430, 475, 493, 496, 519; Washington's papers, 1; on Monroe's defense, letter, 8*n*; wine cooler gift, 9; Washington's foreign correspondence, 18, 23, 56, 66, 104, 126; Yrujo, 57; copy press, 57; Philosophical Society, 66; information for Washington, 126, 493; *Aurora's* charges, reply, 156; X Y Z mission, Gerry, letter, 248, 494, 494*n*; major generals, rank question, 323, 324*n*, 430, 431, 475, 477; Washington's affairs, 385, 386; army clothing, 479; state correspondence on French crisis, 520.

Pictures and frames, Mount Vernon, orders, 15, 32, 295.

Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth, minister to France, rejected, 19, 237; letters to, 89, 496; major general, rank, 324, 331, 332, 346, 348*n*, 349*n*, 356*n*, 393, 426*n*, 448*n*, 456–462, 496, 500, 519, 520; return awaited, 423, 494; selection of officers, 423, 490, 505; return, 496; Mount Vernon, 496; call to service, 504; conference of major generals, 514.

Pinckney, Thomas, Spanish negotiations, 202; letters to, 252, 499*n*; favor, 252; health, 253; Mount Vernon, 253; as officer, 334.

Pindars, order, 175.

Plans. *See* Maps and plans.

Point Pleasant, W. Va. (Va.), importance, 60.

Poland, struggle for independence, 297.

Politics, Republican Party, 42, 48, 56; Langhorne correspondence to entrap Washington, 52, 53, 81, 183, 408, 420; French crisis, 90, 93, 249, 254, 299, 352, 384, 389, 420, 451, 474, 475, 498, 516; Washington's lament, 168, 175, 176, 182, 183; eradicating heresies, 280.

Porcupine, Peter. *See* Cobbett, William.

Portraits, Savage's Washington prints, 188, 293, 373.

Posey, Thomas, Washington's Kentucky land, 119.

Post-office, Washington's frank, 16, 161; inefficiency, 386; interruption of mail, 405.

Potomac Navigation Company, state aid, 115–117, 125; Washington's faith, 116; meeting, officers, 119, 125, 158, 380; Shenandoah improvement, 125; conveyance of stock, 186; progress and hopes, 268; Washington's loan(?), 276.

Potomac River, arsenal, 54, 253, 318; navy yard, 464–469; defenses, 466*n*.

Powel, Elizabeth (Willing), letter to, 109*n*.

Presidency, duties and private correspondence, 4, 48; retirement, 41, 49, 65, 84; abuse, 50, 52, 53, 156; expense, 257. *See also* Adams, John.

Presidential mansion, furnishings, disposal, 9, 10, 17, 146, 188, 294, 373; accounts, 85.

Prices, flour, 55; corn, 123, 159, 173; rye, 172; land, 317.

Prince Edward County, Va., address on French crisis, 498.

Privateers, prizes, 233; French, spoliations, 260; letters of marque for expected French war, 298*n*.

Providence, protection, 192.

Provisions, for Mount Vernon, 174, 175, 188.

Prussing, Eugene E., *Estate of George Washington,* 378*n*, 391*n*, 487*n*.

Public debt, Washington's stock, interest, disposal, 32, 276; federal district loan, 118, 189, 190.

Public lands, equitable claim, 117.

Purviance, John H., Monroe, 199, 226.

Putnam, Rufus, letter to, 143; Washington's Miami land, 143.

Quartermaster general, office, appointment, rank, 309, 331, 340, 356, 356*n*, 357, 375, 380, 387, 402, 434.

Ragsdale, Drury, as officer, 359.

Raisins, order, 175.

Ramsey, Nathaniel, letters to, 5, 6; animals for Mount Vernon, 5–7; as officer, 334.

Randall, Emilius O., on Washington's Miami land, 378*n*.

Randolph, David, horse for Washington, 390.

Randolph, Edmund, appointment of Monroe, 195.

Ravensworth, Fitzhugh's estate, 279.

Rawlins, Albin, clerkship at Mount Vernon, duties, 58, 150, 165, 166, 172, 283, 284, 444; letters to, 150, 164.

Read, George, Izard, 415.

Read, Jacob, letter to, 415.
Recruiting, regulations, 425; delay, 441, 468, 477, 478, 489; quotas, 490–493, 511.
Reed, James, Washington's Pennsylvania land, 371, 372.
Reed & Ford, bank stock affair, 28–30.
Republican Party, Washington on, 42, 48, 56. *See also* Politics.
Reynold's Pamphlet, 33*n*.
Rhode Island, army officers from, 333.
Rhodes, Richard, overseership, 445, 450, 452.
Rich, Henry Pye, Jay Treaty commission, 20; Mount Vernon, 20*n*.
Rising, early, 118.
Ritchie, Matthew, and estate, payment to Washington, 24, 132, 164, 280, 371, 372.
Rivaldi, *Maj.* John Jacob Ulrich, artillery command, 488.
River Farm, Lear and lease, 30, 31.
Robison, John, *Proofs of a Conspiracy*, 452*n*.
Rogers, Nicholas, as officer, 334.
Roots, John, military grant, 377.
Rosenbach, Abraham S. W., acknowledgments to, 91*n*, 241*n*, 303*n*, 485*n*, 494*n*.
Ross, James, Washington's Pennsylvania land, 23–25, 68, 107, 132, 137, 138, 164, 372, 475, 476, 480; letters to, 68, 132, 164, 475; frontier land, 69, 71, 133, 135; on conditions in House, letter, 164*n*.
Rotation in cropping, not accomplished, 285.
Rough Creek, Ky., Washington's land, 119–121, 159, 160, 192, 193, 250, 338, 350, 351.
Round Bottom, W. Va. (Va.), Washington's land, described, disposal, 132, 133, 135, 158, 317, 336, 337, 391–393, 439.
Russell, ——, draft, 282.
Russell, William, letter to, 469; Mount Vernon, 469; ram, chaff machine, 470; wheat, 470.
Rutledge, Edward, as officer, 334; army command, artillery, 360, 488.
Rutledge, Henry Middleton, Gerry, 494*n*.
Rye, culture, 12; purchase for distillery, 140, 141, 168, 172; price, 172.
Rye grass, seed, 12.

St. Johns College, young Custis, 169–171, 180, 187, 245, 259, 288, 289, 363, 376, 421, 422, 435, 449; Carter youths, 484*n*.
Salaries, presidential, 257.

Sanders, John, Kentucky land, 119.
Sands, Joseph, letter to, 276; package for Washington, 276.
*Saratoga,* 18.
Sargent, Winthrop, letter to, 141; Washington's Miami lands, 142.
Savage, Edward, Washington prints, 188, 293, 373; letter to, 293.
Savage, Margaret, estate, suit, 13, 14, 250.
Savage, *Dr.* William, wife's estate, 13, 250.
Scott, Gustavus, letter to, 118; Potomac Company, 119.
Scott, John, Langhorne letter, 53*n*.
Searson, John, letter to, 14; employment, 14; poems, 14.
Senate, Washington's army command, 326*n*. *See also* Congress.
Sevier, John, brigadiership, Washington's criticism, 356*n*, 358, 433, 443.
Sheep, rams and ewes acquired, 5–7, 470; improvement, 17; from and to Antigua, 426, 427.
Sheldon, Elisha, as officer, 333.
Shenandoah River, improvement, 125.
Shephard, James, letter to, 376; naval plan, 377, 379.
Sherburn, Henry, as officer, 333.
Shoemaking, Mount Vernon accounts, 152.
Short, Peyton, Washington's Kentucky land, 160, 192, 193, 338, 339, 350, 351, 511; letter to, 350.
Shreve, Israel, letters to, 23, 480; Washington's Pennsylvania land, payment, delinquency, 23–25, 68, 107, 132, 138, 164, 337, 371, 475, 476, 480.
Silver, shipment, 48.
Silver Greys, Alexandria company colors, 368, 380, 418, 418*n*, 503, 503*n*.
Simmons, ——, Washington's coach, 17.
Simms, Charles, land case, 43, 45; Savage estate, 250; home defense company, colors, 380, 418, 418*n*; Pearcy, 379; letter to, 418*n*.
Simms, Jesse, note, 167, 168, 258, 473.
Simons, William, bears letter, 468.
Sinclair, *Sir* John, packet from, 22; letters to, 66, 260, 261, 321; pamphlets, agricultural survey, 66, 68, 321; Parkingson, 81; correspondence, 260; Fairfax, 260, 261.
Skinner, *Dr.* ——, Kentucky land, 119, 250.
Slaves, gradual emancipation, 2; Washington and purchase, 70; as laborers, 114; cloth, 148, 174, 177, 178, 241; conduct, 445. *See also* Fugitive.

Small, ——, Washington's coach, 79, 158.
Smith, Alexander, letters to, 237, 251, 294; lumber, 237, 238, 251, 294.
Smith, Miles, letter to, 192; Mount Vernon, 192, 259.
Smith, *Rev.* Samuel Stanhope, young Custis, 21, 42; letter to, 42; Mercer, 366.
Smith, William Stephens, army appointment, adjutant generalship, 331, 356, 356*n*, 375, 403; rejected by Senate, 491; regimental command, 491.
Snyder, *Rev.* G. W., letters to, 452, 518; Illuminati, letter, 453*n*, 518.
Soil, Mount Vernon, 240.
South Carolina, French crisis, 273; army officers from, 334, 424, 469, 479, 490, 492, 504; letter to Cincinnati, 499.
Spaight, Richard Dobbs, French crisis, 273.
Spain, France and American negotiations, 202, 221.
Speculation, land misrepresentation to immigrants, 248.
Spence, William, gardener at Mount Vernon, 64.
Spoliations. *See* Neutral trade.
Spotswood, Alexander, Mount Vernon, 22, 408; letters to, 58, 110, 120, 159, 193, 338, 443, 450; steward for Mount Vernon, 58; Washington's Kentucky land, 59, 119–121, 159, 160, 192, 193, 338; housekeeper for Mount Vernon, 150; estate, 444; headmen for Mount Vernon farms, 444–446, 450; selection of army officers, 446, 451.
Spotswood, John, return, 451; naval position, 486.
Sprague, William B., Washington papers, 27*n*, 312*n*.
Spurious letters, reprint, 50.
Staff, provisional army, qualifications, 308, 315; appointments, 318, 319, 330, 340, 356, 356*n*, 357, 375, 380, 387, 388, 402, 433, 442, 454, 456, 462, 501. *See also* Military secretary.
State, department of, acknowledgment to, 244*n*.
State, secretary of. *See* Pickering, Timothy.
Staves, purchase, 173.
Steinbrecker, Paul, & Co., letter possessed by, 317*n*.
Stephens, ——, Kentucky land claim, 119, 120.
Sterling, Scot., agricultural survey, 321.
Stevens, Ebenezer, as officer, 333.
Stock. *See* Animals.
Stoddert, Benjamin, secretary of the navy, 377; letters to, 464, 486; navy yard, 464; young Spotswood, 486.
Storehouse, Mount Vernon, accounts, 152.

Story, Joseph, Washington's copy of Monroe's *View*, 194*n*.
Stoves, Mount Vernon, 15, 16, 32, 47.
Stoy, *Dr.* William, letter to, 186; dog-bite cure, 187.
Straw. *See* Chaff.
Strickland, William, Miles Smith, 192, 259; letter to, 259; Fairfax, 260.
Stuart, David, letters to, 135, 169, 412, 435; young Custis, 135–137, 169–171, 180, 181; Hope Park, 170; Nicholas, 185; Mount Vernon, 246.
Stuart, William, overseer, 30; as farm manager, 283, 287.
*Suffolk*, 369*n*.
Suffolk County, Va., Washington's land, 46, 47.
Sugarland Island, proposed purchase, 72–74.
Supreme Court, appointments, 519*n*.
Surveying, study, 422.
Swan, ——, Pearson case, 45, 63.

Table ornaments, from presidential mansion, cost, disposal, 9, 10, 17, 146, 188, 294, 373.
Talleyrand-Périgord, Charles Maurice de, Gerry, 298*n*, 494, 494*n*, 497.
Tallmadge, Benjamin, as officer, 333, 359; army appointment, cavalry, staff, 410, 425, 493.
Talon, ——, mission, 156.
Taxes, frontier land, 110, 128–130, 149, 157, 193, 339, 350, 351, 510, 511.
Tayloe, John, letter to, 355; aideship or line command, 355, 356, 358.
Taylor, ——, Washington's copy press, 19.
Tea, order, 174.
Teeth, Mrs. Washington's false, 182.
Temple, Benjamin, as officer, 334.
Tennessee, officers from, 424, 479, 492, 505, 515–517; quota, 492.
Thacher, George, letter to, 143; Goodwin's claim, 143.
Thomas, I. V., account, 152.
Thompson, ——, Washington's Kentucky land, 59.
Thompson & Veitch, shipment, Mount Vernon, letter, 369*n*.
Thornton, William, letters to, 39*n*, 45, 498, 522; chestnuts, 39*n*; gift, 45; Washington's houses in federal district, 437, 498, 499, 523, 524; own house, Washington's accommodation, 522.
Threshing machines, Martin's and Booker's, 37–39, 247, 252, 261, 296, 297.
Tice, ——, shipmaster, Potomac run, 241.

Tobacco, rent in, notes, 127, 321, 336, 337, 407, 408, 427, 428.
Toner Transcripts, material from, 40*n*, 109*n*, 266*n*, 353*n*.
Towers, ——, shipmaster, French news, 18.
Traveler, stallion, 151.
Treasury, secretary of the. *See* Wolcott, Oliver [2].
Trescott, Lemuel, as officer, 333.
Trespass, Washington's land, tenant to prevent, 62, 163.
*Trial,* Potomac run, 18.
Triplett, *Dr.* Thomas, army appointment, 370.
Triplett, William, letter to, 35; land affair, 35, 36, 43.
Trumbull, John, letter to, 367; Revolutionary prints, 367.
Tunnicliff, William, hotel in federal district, 37, 518.

Uniform, Washington's, for expected French war, 304.
United States Naval Academy, acknowledgment to, 277*n*.

Valentine, Jacob, letter to, 58; rights as veteran, 58.
Veatch, Hezekiah, Washington's Maryland land, agency, 126, 127, 179, 180.
Virginia, Potomac Company loan, 125; French crisis, 273, 275, 420; army officers from, 334, 359, 492, 512, 513; cession of western claim and land rights, 378*n*; quota of troops, 492; reply to militia address on French crisis, 517.
Virginia, governor of. *See* Wood, James.
*Virginia Gazette and General Advertiser,* advertisement, 35*n*.
Vogel, *Mrs.* Theodore, letter possessed by, 293.

Wages, overseer, 11; miller, 242–244; at Mount Vernon, 445.
Walker, Benjamin, as officer, 333; army appointment, 395.
Walker, Francis, letter to, 46; Suffolk land, 46, 47.
Walker, *Dr.* Thomas, Suffolk land, 46, 47.
Wall, river, at Mount Vernon mansion, 524, 525.
Walnut Tree Farm, 30*n*.
Walters, ——, shipmaster, 294.
War, Washington's deprecation, 4, 48.
War, secretary of. *See* McHenry, James.
Washington, Ann, husband, 171*n*.
Washington, Anne (Blackburn), Mount Vernon, 409.

Washington, Bushrod, letters to, 43, 57, 62, 75, 109, 128, 149, 157, 184, 250, 408, 419, 519*n*; land case, 43–45, 57; housekeeper for Mount Vernon, 62, 63, 76, 77, 109; slave cook for Mount Vernon, 70; Colvill estate, 75, 76, 184; uncle's frontier land, taxes, 110, 128–130, 149, 157, 250; illness, 149; Dismal Swamp land, 149; Langhorne affair, 185, 408, 420; Mount Vernon, 420; justiceship, 519*n*.

Washington, Corbin, wife ill, 174, 409.

Washington, Elizabeth (Foote), land affair, 63.

Washington, George, movements, 265, 266, 274, 277, 488; "Hail Columbia," 274; open-mindedness, 431. *See also* Advice; Estates; Finances; French crisis; Health; Land; Papers; Portraits; Presidency.

Washington, Hannah (Bushrod), Washington's inquiry, 174; Mount Vernon, 409.

Washington, Hannah (Lee), illness, 174, 409.

Washington, John, immigrant, family, 173.

Washington, Lawrence, immigrant, family, 173, 239, 482.

Washington, Lawrence Augustine, letter to, 25; wedding, wife, 25, 26, 92.

Washington, Lund, land, 43.

Washington, Martha, immigrant, Mrs. Hayward, 482.

Washington, Martha, health, 22; letter to Mrs. Powell, 109*n*; letter to Mrs. Liston, 169*n*; colors for Alexandria home company, letter, 368, 380, 418, 418*n*.

Washington, Mary (Lee), death, 171*n*.

Washington, Mary Dorcas (Wood), 25, 26, 92.

Washington, William, as officer, 334; army command, 356*n*, 468; letter to, 468; selection of officers, 469, 490.

Washington, William Augustine, letters to, 171, 239, 301, 481, 484; death of wife, 171; education of sons, 172; grain, 172; genealogy, 173, 239, 482; corn contract with uncle, 239–241, 301, 302, 473, 481; building in federal district, 485.

Washington, D. C., Washington's prophecy, 264; Washington at, 274. *See also* District of Columbia.

Washington, Pa., Addison's oration, 280.

Washington Academy (Liberty Hall), reply to address on donation, 293.

Washington County, Va., reply to address of militia, 428.

Washington family, genealogy, 173, 239, 482.

Water, supply for federal district, 467. *See also* Wells.

Watts, John, cavalry command, 493.

Weather, severe winter, 94, 96; heavy summer rains, 282; drought, 494.
Weight, Washington's, 390.
Welch, James, letters to, 82, 99; frontier land lease, 82, 83, 99–104, 487.
Wells, in federal district, 523.
West, Hugh, letter to, 243; office seeker, 244.
West, John, Colvill estate, 75, 76.
West, Roger, army appointment, 360.
West, French intrigue, 236.
West Point, need of academy, 355.
Western claims, cession and land rights, 378*n*.
Wheat, prospects, crop, 12, 94, 282; pests, 12; sowing, 30; threshing machines, 37–39, 247, 261, 262, 296; special cradling, 255; early variety, 322; lamas variety, 323; Egyptian, 323; wintering, 323; special seed sent north, 470.
Whiskey Insurrection, command against, 399.
White, Alexander, letters to, 124, 175, 189, 436; Potomac Company, 125; Congress and advance to federal district, 175, 190; political information, 175, 176; bears letter, 265; Washington's lots and houses, 436.
White, Anthony Walton, as officer, 333; army command, Washington's criticism, 356*n*, 433, 442.
White Plains, Murray's estate, 450.
Whiting, T., grass seed, 62.
Wilkins, John, as quartermaster, 357.
William and Mary College, young Custis, 137.
William Thornton Papers, material from, 39*n*, 46*n*, 499*n*, 524*n*.
Williams, ——, land, 57.
Williams, Samuel, letter to, 121; Lafayette, 121, 126; consul, 121*n*.
Willis, Francis, stoutness, 446.
Wilmer, Jonathan R., letter to, 382; aideship, 382.
Wilson, William, note and account, 258; favor, 323.
Wilson & Potts, freight, 428.
Winder, Levin, as officer, 334.
Wine, coolers, 9, 10, 15.
Wolcott, *Gov.* Oliver [1], death, 108.
Wolcott, Oliver [2], secretary of the treasury, wine cooler for, 9; letters to, 107, 108, 137; Washington's affairs, 107, 137; Biddle, letter, 109, 139, 139*n*; rank of major generals, 448*n*, 475, 477, 503, 503*n*; use of war funds, 478, 479.

Wood, *Gov.* James, letter to, 125; as officer, 334.
Wood, Mary Dorcas, Mrs. Washington, 25, 26.
Woodrow, Andrew, Kentucky land, 120, 160.
Woodward, Augustus, draft, 128.
Wright, James, land, 46.
Wright, Joseph, painting, 321*n*.
Wright, Stephen, land, 46.

X Y Z mission, arrival, expectation, 89, 90; news awaited, conjectures, 108, 138, 145, 145*n*, 179; Adams's message, 191, 239; public reaction to treatment, 239, 246, 248, 254, 263, 264, 271, 273–275, 288, 289, 292, 312*n*, 328, 342, 351, 364, 365, 368, 407, 413, 419, 429, 430; Hamilton's proposals to Washington, 271, 271*n*; Hail Columbia, 274; Fast Day addresses, 280, 281, 290; Gerry's conduct, 298*n*, 299, 494, 494*n*, 497, 520; return, 299, 303, 341, 494, 496; papers, 303; dinner to Marshall, 420*n*. *See also* French crisis.

Yellow fever, Philadelphia (1797), 17, 23, 27, 37, 47. 57; (1798), 412, 417, 434, 435; elsewhere, 470.
Young, Henry, army appointment, 360.
Yrujo, Carlos Martínez, *marqués* de Casa, Pickering correspondence, 57.
Yundt, Leonard, letter to, 35*n*; advertisement, 35*n*.

Date ~~Loaned~~ Due

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
1 1719 01563 8291